

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WAR BRIDES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of women who played a profound but under-appreciated role in America's stand against the Axis Powers during the Second World War. Known as War Brides, these women met our soldiers during the war while they were stationed overseas, eventually coming to the United States after the war as their wives. Women such as Sylvia Harris, a constituent of mine, boosted the wartime morale of our bravest men during that dark period in human history.

While we are all familiar with the stories of the Greatest Generation, less often told are the stories of those women who came to this country as War Brides. These extraordinary individuals left their families and cultures behind to follow the men they fell in love with. They adopted the United States of America as their home, raising children and supporting their husbands. They embodied the notion and reality of the Greatest Generation by pledging their allegiance to the United States and to the soldiers who bravely fought for freedom around the world.

War Brides overcame not only physical barriers, often traveling months by train and boat to rejoin their husbands, but also xenophobia in many cases, making the transition to their newly-adopted country all the more difficult. They are a testament to the evolution of social and cultural equality in this country, bringing with them the traditions of countless cultures that make America the wonderful melting pot that it is.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that on this, the 61st anniversary of the emigration of thousands of War Brides into the United States of America, Mrs. Harris brought to my attention the invaluable contribution of these remarkable women to our country.

Madam Speaker, love and the union of marriage are extraordinarily powerful; they have been known to save lives, spurring soldiers to persevere with purpose for the sake of loved ones. Just as we remember those who kept the home fires burning here in the United States during the Second World War, we should pay tribute to those women who formed bonds with and inspired our soldiers abroad during that conflict. Whether coming from Europe, Africa, Asia, or Australia, these women hold an important place in the history and free democracy of the United States, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in saluting their bravery and resilience.

HONORING WILLIAM DELMONT, LACKAWANNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, Wednesday, March 28, 2007, the Chamber of Commerce of the great City of Lackawanna, New York will name its annual Citizen of the Year. While many great Western New Yorkers have been so honored by the Chamber over the years, in 2007 the Chamber will bestow this honor upon one of the greats in the city's history—the founder, publisher and editor of the Front Page newspaper, William Delmont.

As publisher of the weekly publications Front Page and South Buffalo News, Bill has been a journalistic icon in Western New York. Long the official publication for numerous local governments and school districts, Bill's newspapers maintain a hometown flavor that is rarely seen in this day and age.

Most of all, however, Bill Delmont is one of Lackawanna's many treasures. A longtime business owner, entrepreneur and civic leader, Bill Delmont's dedication to his hometown is inspirational indeed. Bill has long been a fighter for Lackawanna and for its citizens, and has consistently strived to provide opportunities to those citizens, be it in public service or in the private sector.

Bill has been honored many times over for his commitment to Lackawanna, as an honoree of the Lake Erie Italian Club, the Lackawanna Area Historical Association, the Our Lady of Victory Hospital, and the Matthew Glab Post 1477, and was recently named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

One of Bill's most significant accomplishments has been his decades-long leadership of the Erie County Conservative Party. Bill is perhaps the wisest political sage in Western New York, and I suspect that not one serious candidate for high political office in Western New York failed to call upon Bill for advice and counsel over the years. Since my first run for public office in 1987, Bill Delmont has stood with me as a trusted adviser and friend whose support I have been proud to receive. It would be impossible for me to adequately recount or repay his many kindnesses and courtesies to me, both personally as well as professionally, but it is very fitting, Madam Speaker, that I ask you and all of our colleagues here join me in offering our most sincere congratulations to Lackawanna, New York's favorite son, Bill Delmont, upon his receipt of this prestigious honor.

HONORING MR. JOHN DAU

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. John Dau of Syracuse, New York.

Mr. Dau has dedicated his life to helping others in his native country of Sudan to get a chance at a better life. He has done amazing humanitarian work for his fellow Sudanese people, including raising money for the building of a clinic in his home village and raising awareness about the plight of the Sudanese in general.

National Geographic has recently named Mr. Dau one of the eight emerging explorers of 2007. Those given this title are adventurers, scientists, photographers, and storytellers that are said to be making a difference in their prospective fields. The National Geographic executive vice president for mission programs has referred to Mr. Dau as a "visionary individual" and asserted that he was precisely the sort of individual National Geographic was looking for when choosing emerging explorers.

With the money from this award, Mr. Dau is going to send other "Lost Boys", or Sudanese who spent their adolescence fleeing war, famine, and slavery, to school in Kenya and Uganda. Mr. Dau is an accomplished humanitarian, and it is for this reason that I rise today to recognize his great work.

HONORING MOUNTAIN FIFES AND DRUMS FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND SKILL IN YOUTH MUSIC

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand today in recognition of the Mountain Fifes and Drums, a volunteer music program located in Lake Arrowhead, California, that specializes in providing unique instruction, history, and leadership skills to 60 young people.

I am delighted to report that on May 12, members of the Mountain Fifes and Drums will be leading the processional march at the America's 400th anniversary celebration in Jamestown, Virginia. This celebration will be chaired by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and is expected to feature guest appearances by Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh. Is it an honor to be recognized at a historical event of such a high caliber, and I congratulate the Mountain Fifes and Drums for representing California at this national celebration.

Founded in 2001 by Lake Arrowhead residents Cindy Olson and Kevin Garland, the Mountain Fifes and Drums has become one of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the premiere living history music groups in my district. The repertoire focuses on 18th and 19th century martial music, and the corps has excelled at presenting their music as accurately and authentically as possible. The group also provides character-building lessons in responsibility and discipline. There is no fee for the program and no prior musical knowledge is required, which encourages students of all levels to join.

Like many privately organized musical groups in my district, the Mountain Fifes and Drums offers instruction in music technique, theory, and history. But the group also fosters character development of each member of the corps. By providing incentives for achieving higher ranks in music, and offering a point system for disciplined behavior, members are encouraged to engage in healthy competition and to consistently perfect their music techniques.

Students are taught lessons in self-sufficiency, by engaging in fundraising activities in order to pay for trips around the United States. These fundraising projects help the performers hone their skills and teach invaluable lessons about hard work and responsibility. At the same time, they create ties to many community groups that encourage youth to stay active in local organizations.

Most of the members of the Mountain Fifes and Drums are home schooled, and their participation provides friendships that extend beyond the rehearsal hall. Group members come from a number of mountain communities, including Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, Running Springs, and Twin Peaks. I am pleased to see that residents in each of these areas have provided generous contributions to the Mountain Fifes and Drums.

Madam Speaker, I look forward with pride to watching these talented and dedicated young people take part in our national Jamestown celebration. I ask my colleagues to join with me in wishing them success and thanking Cindy Olson and Kevin Garland for creating and fostering such a unique group.

IN HONOR OF ANDREW SAAVEDRA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today in honor of Andrew Saavedra, who was recently named Orange County Catholic Man of the Year.

Andrew Saavedra has tirelessly devoted his life to helping the poor, the homeless, and disadvantaged in Santa Ana and throughout Orange County.

The recent recognition is the culmination of a lifetime of service. Andrew Saavedra was a founding member of Santa Ana's Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen 21 years ago. The soup kitchen now serves meals to 500 homeless men and women each week.

Currently, Andrew Saavedra is president of the Orange County Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a spokesman for the Second Harvest food bank, an active member of the Peace and Justice Committee of St. Joseph's church, and a board member of the Orange County Congregation Community Organization.

After retiring from his job last May as a salesman for a food-service company, Andrew Saavedra decided to dedicate more of his time to volunteer activities.

I do not know many people who choose to pursue a 40-hour workweek upon retiring, but Andrew Saavedra has a calling to help people, and he does just that.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIALTY CROP EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act. As the Representative of our Nation's most diverse, productive, and highly valued crop base, this legislation is of great importance to my constituents. It is also of great national significance, as the United States seeks to increase competitiveness in the global marketplace.

As many of my colleagues representing rural America know, our farmers are faced with enormous challenges. These challenges not only relate to the production of wholesome food and fiber, but are also a direct result of regulatory burdens, environmental laws, and, increasingly, global trade practices. For this reason, problems associated with foreign market access can be highly destructive to American farmers.

I introduced the U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act today because I believe Congress needs to take a fresh look at how we fund and structure our efforts in support of American agriculture. As we examine U.S. farm policies, Congress should support changes that increase our Government's emphasis on foreign market access and development. In addition, we need to be certain that we have the resources in place to meet the heavy demands associated with fighting unfair trade practices. Absent such a commitment, our balance of agriculture trade will continue to erode and our Nation's farmers will suffer.

Madam Speaker, we owe our farmers and rural communities the benefit of aggressive advocacy around the world. Unfortunately, our current governmental organization does not lend itself to this kind of advocacy. By way of example, there is no statutory responsibility on the part of the United States Department of Agriculture, USDA, concerning agricultural exports. Furthermore, current resource allocation suggests we have strayed from the focus needed to effectively promote U.S. agricultural interests around the world. The Foreign Agriculture Service employs 11 full-time equivalent analysts who are solely responsible for trade compliance monitoring. This is of great concern to me, given the number of agreements we have signed and the aggressive nature of our global trade agenda. As part of the U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act, we require the USDA to answer tough questions about resource allocation and the Agency's ability to do the job we all expect.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately our World Trade Organization, WTO, agreements and numerous Free Trade Agreements are not guarantees of free and open trade. Each

agreement requires a process of implementation and compliance monitoring. Absent these follow-up actions, our Nation fails to witness the full benefit of our trade policy.

Since my election to Congress, I have received many complaints from frustrated exporters of perishable agricultural commodities. They believe that large commodities and other sectors of our economy are receiving the bulk of our national resources when it comes to trade dispute resolution. The U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act will help to alleviate this frustration. The bill establishes a statutory obligation on the part of USDA for exports. It also requires the Secretary to take a number of steps to improve the export process, including: coordination of market analysis between the private sector and FAS; Agency explanation of sanitary and phytosanitary issues associated with each pending export petition; and public availability of information concerning the import requirements of foreign countries. These changes will increase process transparency and provide American farmers information they need to fight trade barriers.

In addition, the U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act establishes an export credit guarantee program for fruits and vegetables. These perishable commodities would greatly benefit from the cash flow management tool provided by a short-term export credit. The USDA operates export credit guarantee programs today, but their design is not based on the unique circumstances associated with trade in fruits and vegetables. Congress needs to address this shortcoming.

Madam Speaker, in addition to giving our exporters more information and providing them with appropriate cash management tools, we need to examine options that will provide additional security against unfair trade practices. One possibility is the establishment of a perishable commodity export indemnification program. This would allow U.S. agriculture exporters to insure against the possibility of unforeseen trade barriers. The U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act takes the first step in the establishment of such a program.

When our exporters experience unfair trade barriers, they need to know that the U.S. Government will provide the technical and diplomatic support necessary to eliminate those barriers. Indeed, for our farmers to enjoy the full benefits of any agreement, our Government must be in a position to provide agriculture exporters the help they need in a timely manner. Perishable commodities cannot wait in ports for an eventual resolution to unfair sanitary or phytosanitary barriers. Such delays make the risk of trade unacceptable and drive U.S. farmers out of the export business.

Madam Speaker, there is clear evidence that we have already paid a significant price for what I believe are poorly coordinated efforts on behalf of American agriculture. Specifically, I am dismayed to report that we have witnessed a trade surplus in fruits and vegetables turn into a significant trade deficit. Over a period of 12 years and following the much heralded World Trade Organization (WTO) General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, GATT, we have witnessed a transition from \$608,442,000 in surplus trade of fruits and vegetables to a \$2,295,426,000 deficit. In short, our farmers are not seeing the full benefits of trade liberalization resulting from the GATT.

In closing, I think it is important to point out that many of the farmers facing challenges with trade are conducting their business independent of Government support. Fruit and vegetable farmers are not subsidized. They compete on the global market based on quality and efficiency. For this reason, our Nation's position in WTO trade negotiations should be to eliminate the Peace Clause for Chapters 7 and 8 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. This will allow the U.S. to initiate dispute resolution proceedings in the WTO when trading partners use distorting subsidies.

Madam Speaker, when provided a level playing field, U.S. agricultural products are well received by consumers around the world. However, our farmers do not have the resources to fight unfair trade barriers alone. The U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act is vital if we are to renew our commitment for free and fair trade on behalf of American agriculture.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT WAYNE CORNELL

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Army SGT Wayne Cornell, a Nebraska native who lost his life last week. Cornell and another soldier were killed when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle in Baghdad. They were soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Wayne was on his first tour of duty in Iraq, and during 4 years with the Nebraska Army National Guard, had served twice in Bosnia and once in Afghanistan.

According to his family, Wayne was a strong man—both physically and emotionally. He was a black belt in taekwondo and a loving husband and father.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Wayne's wife, Patricia, who is expecting their third child this July. It is heartbreaking that a man who is often described as someone who "lived for his wife and kids," will not be able to see his children grow and succeed in his footsteps.

We all owe Sergeant Cornell a debt of gratitude we can never repay. His courage, love of family, and strength should set the benchmark for us all.

ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 137, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007. I want to thank my colleagues Representative GALLEGLY and Representative BLUMENAUER for their hard work on this issue.

This important legislation will make it illegal to transport an animal across State or international borders for the purpose of fighting,

prohibits use of the mail system to promote animal fighting, and criminalizes interstate buying, selling, or transportation of knives or gaffs used for animal fighting.

Animal fighting is a deplorable activity with a purely negative impact on society. In cockfights, when two birds fight with blades or gaffs attached to their feet, at least one, and sometimes both of the birds are killed. Dogs who are made to fight often sustain severe injuries such as deep wounds and broken bones. Subsequent to fights, many dogs die of blood loss, exhaustion, or shock. Fighting animals are usually subject to inhumane living conditions intended to make them more aggressive, sometimes denied adequate nutrition, and made to exercise until they are physically exhausted.

In addition to the inexcusable harm inflicted on the animals, the fights also have negative effects on humans. Illegal gambling and drug trafficking are often closely tied to animal fighting operations. Also, animals bred to fight are abnormally aggressive, and pose a danger to the communities they live in if they were to get loose.

I applaud the passage of this bill, which will end an inhumane practice that is an embarrassment to our country. I am proud that this democratic majority has made animal welfare a priority in the 110th Congress.

ON URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OBSERVATION OF A LEGAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 76, urging the establishment and observation of a legal public holiday in honor of César E. Chávez.

César Chávez is an iconic figure of the Civil Rights Era, a man Robert F. Kennedy noted as "one of the heroic figures of our time." César Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, in Yuma, AZ. He spent most of his youth working on farms throughout the Southwest and California, and it was there that César Chávez came to understand the uniquely arduous conditions agricultural workers face in the U.S.

For more than 3 decades, César Chávez worked as a community organizer, labor leader and civil rights activist. Influenced by figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he embraced strategies of non-violence in working to improve the conditions of America's agricultural working poor. He co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW) of America. As a labor leader, César Chávez employed peaceful tactics such as fasts, boycotts, strikes, and pilgrimages toward achieving fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits and humane living conditions for thousands of workers everywhere. These efforts resulted in the first industry-wide labor contracts in the history of American agriculture, and led to the passage of the 1975 California Agricultural Relations Act, a bill designed to serve California's farm workers.

César Chávez died on April 23, 1993, and in 1994, President Clinton posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to him, the highest civilian honor in the U.S. Now, 5 States, including Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, celebrate César Chávez's birthday as a State holiday. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in supporting H. Res. 76, urging and establishing César Chávez's birthday, March 31st, as a national holiday, and commemorating the legacy of one of the most heroic figures of our time.

INTRODUCTION OF LENNOX LEGISLATION

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today, Senator FEINSTEIN in the Senate and I are introducing legislation permitting a simple administrative fix that will improve education outcomes for thousands of students in my congressional district.

Imagine, Madam Speaker, sitting at a desk, attempting to memorize a verse or tackle a tough math problem as jet planes roar overhead every few minutes. Every hour. Every day.

That is the situation for the children of Lennox, a mostly working class community that lies just east of LAX, in the airport's flight path. Lennox was added to my district in 2000, and I have worked hard to help the children there get a quality education.

In 1980, Lennox School District and the city of Los Angeles settled a lawsuit concerning aircraft movements over Lennox schools. Lennox gave the city an easement that allowed planes carrying up to 40 million passengers per year to fly overhead, and the city paid Lennox approximately \$2.5 million.

In the years since, air traffic over Lennox schools has significantly increased. As a result, many of the schools are now like bunkers, half underground with no windows. Others have all their windows boarded up.

In February of 2005, Lennox and Los Angeles World Airports, LAWA, settled a second lawsuit, to which Inglewood School District was also a party. Under this settlement, LAWA agreed to provide Lennox and Inglewood with more than \$110 million in noise mitigation funds over 10 years.

However, the FAA has interpreted the 1980 agreement and Federal law to prevent payment of the funds under the 2005 agreement. A legislative solution is the only way that these funds can be released.

Our bill is narrowly tailored to allow LAWA to release the funds it promised to Lennox and Inglewood in the 2005 agreement. The bill is identical to legislation that I introduced in the last Congress, H.R. 6285, which was drafted with the assistance of the FAA, Lennox School District, and LAWA. Importantly, the funds in question are airport funds, not Federal tax dollars, and our bill would not require new Federal spending.

These children deserve a quality education, and this bill will ensure that they get one. I urge its swift passage.

ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITION
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I, along with Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. BARTLETT, have been trying to federally criminalize the brutal, inhumane practice of animal fighting for the past several Congresses.

A few years ago, Congress enacted legislation to tighten Federal laws with regard to animal fighting; however, this law created some loopholes that allowed the barbaric practices of animal fighting to thrive nationwide, in spite of bans in virtually every State. We left in place weak penalties that have proven ineffective. Misdemeanor penalties simply don't provide a meaningful deterrent. We've heard from U.S. Attorneys that they are reluctant to pursue animal fighting cases with just a misdemeanor penalty. Those involved in animal fighting ventures consider misdemeanor penalties a "slap on the wrist" or merely a "cost of doing business."

In recent years, we've seen a marked rise in the frequency of animal fighting busts in communities across the country. Local police and sheriffs are increasingly concerned about animal fighting, not only because of the animal cruelty involved, but also because of the other crimes that often go hand-in-hand, including illegal gambling, drug trafficking, and acts of human violence. In the last 6 months, every reported bust of an animal fight also led to additional arrests for at least one of these criminal activities.

Furthermore, there is an inherent danger for the children of animal fighters to be close to these animals. Children are often brought to these gruesome spectacles. Some dog fighters steal pets to use as bait for training their dogs; some allow trained fighting dogs to roam neighborhoods and endanger the public.

There is the additional concern that cockfighters spread diseases that jeopardize poultry flocks and even public health. We in California experienced this first-hand, when cockfighters spread exotic Newcastle disease, which was so devastating to many of our poultry producers in 2002 and 2003. That outbreak cost U.S. taxpayers nearly \$200 million to eradicate, and cost the U.S. poultry industry many millions more in lost export markets.

Cockfighting has been identified as the major contributor of the spread of avian flu throughout Thailand and other parts of Asia, where the strain originated. At least nine people who contracted avian flu and died from it reportedly contracted it from fighting birds. Among those who are reported to have died from avian influenza as a result of exposure through cockfighting, include 4-year-old, 6-year-old, and 18-year-old boys in Thailand and a 6-year-old girl in Vietnam. Fortunately, bird flu has not yet jumped the species barrier in this country, but we ought to do all we can to minimize the risk.

Opponents of H.R. 137 have said this bill should be blocked because it will drive them underground, increasing the public health risks. That's a ludicrous argument. They're already underground (it's illegal in 49 States and various localities in the remaining State, Lou-

isiana). They're coaching each other, as documented in chat rooms and other communications that have been intercepted, to hide their birds to avoid detection in the event of an outbreak. We're not talking about stellar citizens who are planning to contact health officials to "do their part" in stemming a pandemic. We'll be much better off cracking down on illegal cockfighting than allowing this high-risk industry to continue thriving and hoping they'll work with the government cooperatively to stem the threat of disease.

We need to help State and local law enforcement officials who have requested this strengthening of Federal laws to rid animal fighting from communities that do not want it. This legislation makes violations of federal animal fighting law a felony punishable by up to 3 years in prison, makes it a felony to transport an animal across State or international borders for the purpose of animal fighting, and prohibits the interstate and foreign commerce in knives and gaffs designed for use in cockfighting.

This bill simply promotes meaningful enforcement of current Federal law that bars interstate and foreign movement of animals for fighting purposes, including both dog fighting and cockfighting, by upgrading current misdemeanor penalties to a felony level. The bill is explicitly limited to interstate and foreign commerce, so it protects States' rights in the 2 States where cockfighting is allowed, yet further protects States' rights in the other 48 States where weak Federal law compromises the ability to keep animal fighting outside their borders.

I also wanted to clarify for the RECORD that subsection (c) of section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act, which is about interstate instrumentalities and commercial speech, prohibits the websites and the magazines where fighting animals are advertised for sale. These publications are commercial speech, and also clearly promote animal fighting. They advertise fighting animals and weapons for sale in interstate commerce. For example, over the last 12 months, there have been over 1,600 pages worth of advertisements for illegal interstate commercial transactions in the two main cockfighting magazines.

Subsection (d) is meant to limit subsection (c) with respect to the magazines and other commercial speech promoting cockfights in States where that is legal. It acts as a limitation upon subsection (c), but, as under current law, only if the effect of that promotion is limited to cockfights in the one State where cockfighting is still legal. So as a practical matter, (d) does not limit enforcement of (c) against the cockfighting magazines and website advertisements, because these materials promote animal fights in every State—they are sent to or read by buyers in many States, who buy the fighting animals and implements and then use them in animal fights in States where cockfighting is illegal.

Finally, I also want to say that these provisions in current law, which are mirrored in H.R. 137, pose no problem in terms of the First Amendment. Animal fighting magazines and websites aren't protected by the First Amendment. The Supreme Court has been clear on this score—there is no First Amendment protection for commercial speech where the underlying commercial transaction is lawfully prohibited, as is the case here. Subsection (c) is clearly constitutional. It is nar-

rowly tailored with this in mind. First Amendment consideration is built right into the language. It only prohibits "commercial speech"—like the cockfighting magazines with all of their advertisements for contraband. These animal fighting magazines are not political speech, they are basically just catalogs, with hundreds of advertisements per issue for illegal transactions. The sellers are just soliciting the buyers to commit criminal acts. They can't cloak it in the First Amendment just by throwing a little bit of non-commercial speech in there either, and the Supreme Court has been clear on that as well.

This is the perfect example of a bipartisan bill. The bill I cosponsored in the last Congress, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Act of 2006, had 324 cosponsors and was passed through the Senate by unanimous consent. Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BARTLETT, and I rounded up 300 Democrat and Republican co-sponsors in just a few weeks.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. BARTLETT for their work on this legislation. We have all been working on this legislation for quite some time. I also want to commend Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. FORBES for recognizing the importance of this issue and thank them for moving H.R. 137 through the Judiciary Committee so quickly. I also want to thank Mr. PETERSON of the Agriculture Committee for his assistance on this matter. Finally, I want to thank my 300+ colleagues who cosponsored H.R. 137. Without your help, we would not have been able to show the amount of support this Congress has for ending this deplorable practice and all of the destructive behavior associated with it.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEPAUW
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the DePauw University Women's Basketball Team for winning its first NCAA Division III National Championship. Not only is this the first championship for Coach Kris Huffman, it's the first national championship, in any sport, in the school's history.

The DePauw Tigers defeated the Washington University, St. Louis, Bears by a score of 55–52. The Tigers built a 15-point lead at one point, but the Bears rallied back to cut the deficit to 3 in the closing moments of the game. The Tigers blocked a last second 3-point shot attempt to earn their first title. The win caps a successful DePauw season with a record of 31–3.

Senior Cassie Pruzin led the way for the Tigers scoring 12 points in the game. Fellow seniors Liz Bondi and Suzy Doughty and junior Kalei Lowes each contributed 9 points. Bondi, who also had 9 rebounds and 3 assists in the game, was named most valuable player of the tournament and, along with Doughty, was selected for the All-Tournament team.

Congratulations to Coach Huffman and the DePauw Women's Basketball Team for an outstanding season.

Go Tigers.

HONORING MELISSA JONES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Melissa Jones of the Legacy High School girls' basketball team. On March 22, 2007, Melissa was selected as the All-Colorado Player of the Year by the Rocky Mountain News staff with input from coaches statewide.

This was Melissa Jones' senior season playing for the Legacy High School Lightning. During prior seasons Melissa demonstrated her superb abilities and proved to be a stand-out player. Preceding her senior season, neither major Colorado newspaper ranked the Legacy Lightning in the top ten. Yet that ranking quickly changed as Melissa and her teammates beat, for the first time, their Front Range League rival Horizon High School.

The Lightning, led by Melissa Jones, won a share of the league title and then went on to knock off Regis High School in the Class 5A semifinals. Regis was 21-0 and was the tournament's No. 1 overall seed. Melissa skillfully led the team to the title game clearly showing that the pre-season rankings underestimated her determination. Melissa's skills and abilities, along with her outstanding teammates, carried the Legacy Lightning into the title game. Melissa and the Lightning's success have served as an inspiration and a source of pride for athletes of all stripes in Colorado.

Melissa Jones' statistics for the season included an average of 22.1 points, 8.1 rebounds and 5.1 steals. During the tournament she averaged 29 points and recorded four 30-point performances during the final eight contests.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Melissa Jones for her storybook season and well-deserved selection as the Rocky Mountain News' All-Colorado Player of the Year. Her talent, vision and leadership are undeniable, and she is a source of pride for women's basketball, for Legacy High School and for all of Colorado. I wish her continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2007, I was unavoidably detained during a vote on H.R. 327, the Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

BICENTENNIAL OF THE BRITISH ABOLITION OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the bicentennial of the British abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

On March 25, 1807, the British Parliament passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. Acknowledging this day 200 years later is extremely important because it represents a key event to the abolishment of slavery in Great Britain and the United States. Great Britain will begin to participate in various commemorative activities. Today, here in the United States, the United Nations is also observing the bicentennial by convening a special General Assembly session where speakers from around the globe will discuss their viewpoints about slavery. Rex Nettleford, a historian, will deliver the keynote. I applaud and thank the United Nations and Great Britain for recognizing the historic importance of the passage of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

There is a need for people in the United States and around the world to remember and be reminded of the institution of slavery and its impact on the world during times other than Black History Month. The immeasurable sacrifices endured by enslaved people are too significant to be forgotten. I appreciate the work done by so many people and organizations that provide education on slavery and events that led to freedom of slaves in the United States and other countries. Educating people about slavery and the struggle for freedom provides an excellent opportunity to improve race relations, cultural understanding, and diversity.

I have introduced a resolution commemorating the British Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. One year from now, the United States will participate in activities related to the abolishment of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. I look forward to those activities next year.

YOUTH ACTIVISM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special group of young people in Ft. Lauderdale, FL who are raising awareness about the important and urgent issue of human trafficking.

As you may know, human trafficking and forced labor is one of the most prolific areas of international criminal activity and is of significant concern to the United States and the international community. The overwhelming majority of those trafficked are women and children.

According to the most recent Department of State estimates, between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year. If trafficking within countries and forced labor are included in the total world figures, estimates rise to 4 to 27 million people.

Human trafficking is now considered a leading source of profits for organized crime generating billions of dollars. Trafficking in persons affects virtually every country in the world. Traffickers exploit poverty, war, natural or man-made disasters, and ignorance.

The students at the Ft. Lauderdale Prep School are raising money to combat global human trafficking and they have created a large mural to commemorate the 200th Anni-

versary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave, which occurred on Friday, March 25th. I commend these students on their efforts to raise awareness on this issue. The passion and motivation of these students are worthy of emulation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PEACE PROCESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reiterate support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 and the St. Andrews Agreement of 2006, and to commend the tireless efforts of all involved in the peace process.

On April 10, 1998, the Good Friday Agreement was signed in Belfast, ending 3 decades of violence known as The Troubles. However, this landmark agreement was unable to deliver a lasting government to Northern Ireland, and in 2002 the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Executive were suspended.

In October of 2006, the process was restored with the St. Andrew's Agreement, which established timetables for the restoration of the government of Northern Ireland and breathed life back into the process. This timetable required that both sides make some serious concessions to establish a peaceful and lasting government.

Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein and Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionist Party sat together for the first time ever on Monday, March 26, to announce that they had come to an agreement and that a provincial government will be established on May 8th of this year. I would like to commend them for working to establish this government, and urge the rest of my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their great diplomatic work.

TRIBUTE TO THE EAST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, East Aurora, New York took center stage last week, as the East Aurora High School Girls varsity basketball team earned the distinction of the New York State Class B championship, following a successful 44-41 overtime victory on Saturday, March 17th in Troy, NY.

The East Aurora Blue Devils' team slogan for the 2006-2007 season was "ONE: One Mission, One Goal, One TEAM" and the mission of this very talented team was to reach their goal of making it to the state tournament. Not only did they reach the tournament, they fought their way to the championship game, and to the title itself.

This game marked the first appearance made by the East Aurora Blue Devils in a state final. Additionally, their victory marked the end of a hard fought, record breaking season for the East Aurora Blue Devils who finished the season with a strong record of 24 wins and only 4 losses.

The Blue Devils consist of 16 talented young women, outstanding student athletes one and all, including: Maggie Croft, Ashley Gallagher, Haley Keller, Kelsi Maciejewski, Brogan McCabe, Julia Murak, Natasha Peterson, Lauren Schwarzenholzer, Brooke Schutrum, Emily Smith, Sarah Soroka, Sam Stanley, Alicia Sweet, Sarah and Jessie Tarantino, and Meghan Wolff.

Throughout the season the players met various challenges and each time they stepped up to contribute their talents both as a team and individually. In addition to the starting lineup, the bench players provided inspiration throughout the entire season and stepped in and responded positively on the court whenever they were called upon.

Also, I would be remiss if I failed to recognize the invaluable leadership demonstrated by Head Coach Chris Koselny and Assistant Coach Matt Brown during practices, games and championship tournaments alike. I also want to acknowledge the support of school administrators, Superintendent James Bodziak, and Principal Dr. James Hoagland and Athletic Director Fred Thornley and for the additional guidance and support they received from parents, teachers and the entire community throughout the year.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the great success of the East Aurora High School Lady Blue Devils Basketball team on a hard fought season that led them to victory in the New York State Championship Tournament at Hudson Valley Community College and a record breaking season. It is a pleasure to honor the team and their coaches here today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUANITA HAUGEN

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, today I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Juanita Haugen, who passed away peacefully at age 69 on March 5, 2007 after a courageous battle against lung cancer.

Juanita Haugen was an extraordinary woman whose passion for education and commitment to students enriched the lives of so many. Her efforts and unwavering dedication to public service leave a legacy that will continue to benefit the students of Pleasanton, the state of California and our great Nation for generations to come.

Juanita Haugen and her family moved to Pleasanton in 1970. Juanita became involved in the Pleasanton school system after leaving her job as a probation officer to care for her children at home. She was elected to the Amador Valley Joint Union High School District Board in 1979 and was among the first trustees elected to the Pleasanton Unified School District (USD) following the 1988 reorganization that led to the District's creation. Juanita Haugen remained a member of the Pleasanton USD until her passing, and was the longest-serving trustee in the history of the local schools.

Juanita Haugen strongly believed that children need not only a quality academic education, but also a solid ethical foundation on

which to build strong character. She led the effort in the Pleasanton USD to establish a program that teaches and reinforces positive character traits in all public school students, from kindergartners to high school seniors. This program continues to benefit students by focusing on the way in which they live and treat one another.

In addition to her involvement with the Pleasanton schools, Juanita Haugen's passion for improving public education for all children inspired her to serve on both state and national school board associations. By sharing ideas about education that she learned from her state and national colleagues, Juanita kept Pleasanton's schools on the cutting edge. She always worked for the common good. In the words on one of her fellow school board members, "You must make decisions for the entire school district, not just for your own child or school. Juanita always (said) it has to be right for everybody."

Although Juanita Haugen's efforts won her many awards, her true measure as a leader is how her passion for education inspired others, including her family, Pleasanton's students and her community. From reading to young students to encouraging others to become involved in public service, Juanita Haugen was a valued and respected leader who touched the lives of many and improved the quality of life in Pleasanton for decades to come. It is for these reasons that I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Juanita Haugen and sending our thoughts and prayers to her beloved family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN DAHMER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young leader in my district, Justin Dahmer, who was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. Justin is the 17-year-old son of Roger and Pam Dahmer of Franklin, West Virginia, where he attends Pendleton County High School.

Justin is truly representative of the Scout Oath; to do duty to God and country, help others, and maintain physical and mental strength. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 162 and the Boy Scout honor society, Order of the Arrows. Justin's final project to qualify for Eagle Scout Rank was refinishing a portable water tank for the Pendleton County Emergency Services Department. Thanks to Justin's hard work, respondents will now have additional equipment that would otherwise have been unusable.

Justin's contributions are not limited to his scouting activities; the high school junior is a stand out member of the Pendleton County High School football team and last fall was named all conference offensive lineman. In the off season, Justin throws shot put for the Cougars' track team. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is an usher at Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church.

I am pleased to recognize this young man who truly exhibits service to God and country and thank his parents for raising such a fine citizen. It is an honor to recognize the future community leaders like Justin Dahmer.

IN HONOR OF THE CHAMPION UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS CHESS TEAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the students of the University of Texas at Dallas for their victory at the 2007 Final Four of Chess held in Dallas/Fort Worth this weekend. With this win, the team earned the title of the top collegiate chess team in the Western Hemisphere.

The University of Texas at Dallas chess team won the President's Cup trophy after defeating the University of Maryland at Baltimore County, Duke University and Miami Dade College. The team's five and a half point margin of victory was the largest in the tournament's seven year history.

Team members Alejandro Ramirez, Magesh Chandran Panchanathan, Marko Zivanic, Drasko Boskovic, Dmitri Shneider and Davorin Kuljasevic were guided by their coach, Rade Milovanic. The team credits their victory to a thoughtful strategy and a rigorous practice regimen before the tournament. Drasko Boskovic, a junior business administration major, was selected as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. He outscored all other competitors and had a perfect 3-0 record.

The University of Texas at Dallas is an outstanding school of high academics; the freshman class typically boasts above average SAT scores. Located at the convergence of Plano, Richardson and Dallas, the school enrolls more than 14,500 well-rounded and ambitious students. The university offers bachelor's degrees, master's degrees and doctoral degree programs. I am proud to represent the University of Texas at Dallas in the 32nd Congressional district of Texas.

I congratulate these students for their success in collegiate chess, a true indicator of intelligence, and wish them the best of luck in their future academic and chess endeavors.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the fourth year of the conflict in Iraq, we have before us today a supplemental appropriations bill that should serve one purpose and one purpose only—to provide funding for the safety, security and well-being of our troops. Time and time again, both Democrats and Republicans have pledged to provide our brave Armed Forces with the resources they need to do the job they have been sent to do. Today represents a moment in time when that rhetoric can be supported with bold and definitive action.

That is why it is all the more disappointing that at a time when we should be voting on legislation to provide the necessary supplies, armor, and technology needed to be successful, the Democrats have decided to politicize

this process. Led by Speaker NANCY PELOSI, the majority party has taken this opportunity to add non-military provisions such as \$74 million for peanut storage costs, \$5 million for tropical fish and billions of dollars worth of special-interest pork projects. I have to ask, why would this extraneous non-emergency material be included in a war spending bill when it has nothing to do with war spending?

At what point are we going to stop playing politics with the safety and well being of our troops? I don't think there is anyone in this Chamber who doesn't believe we need to do all we can to support our brave men and women in uniform. However, I find it sad that the bill before us today is being used to satisfy the whims of lawmakers with an appetite for special interest pork projects. Such an effort amounts to nothing more than institutionalizing bribery.

In addition to the more than \$21 billion in pork spending, H.R. 1591 plays politics in a completely different way by setting a timetable for the redeployment of our troops from Iraq.

I believe that the President made a good decision by appointing General Petraeus to command all U.S. Forces in Iraq. The fact that every Democrat in the United States Senate voted to confirm the general reinforces the belief that his new plan and vision for the war on terror is the right one. Implementing a "slow-bleed" strategy will deny the general the opportunity to implement his plan and change the tide in Iraq.

Overseeing the greatest military on Earth while trying to initiate great tactical change is a monumental task, but I feel we owe it to General Petraeus to give him the necessary tools to defeat the terrorists and bring our troops home. In no way can General Petraeus, or any of our military leaders for that matter, be successful in Iraq if a timeline for redeployment becomes law.

The same restrictions should not be placed on our President. My colleagues and I were elected under Article I of the United States Constitution, an article that does not give us the authority to be Commander in Chief. Article II clearly cedes that authority to the President of the United States, whoever he or she is, and from whatever party he or she belongs to. Now, it's no secret that almost every member of the Senate harbors ambitions to one day be President, but until now, I didn't realize that everyone in the House felt the same way. This "slow-bleed" scheme represents an unconstitutional infringement upon the authority of the President as Commander in Chief.

The point is that politicians in Washington should stop trying to micromanage this war and allow the President and his generals to have the troops, equipment, and supplies to complete the goals that have been set. Our troops are not a bargaining chip to be used by congressional Democrats to leverage more excessive and unnecessary pork spending.

Rather than support a bill that provides \$25 million for spinach replenishment, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 1591, so that we can get back to work and pass a clean bill free of any extraneous spending and disastrous military timelines.

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF BISHOP GILBERT EARL PATTERSON—"BE HEALED, BE DELIVERED AND BE SET FREE"

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, such are the favorite words of proclamation that characterized the ministry thrust of presiding Bishop, Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson, whom our Heavenly Father has seen fit to release from the cares of this life, and move from labor to reward. We must, in humble submission, yield to the infinite wisdom and divine will of God who does all things well.

Whereas, Bishop G.E. Patterson was born of humble means in Humboldt, Tennessee to Bishop W.A. and Mrs. Mary Patterson on September 22, 1939. He grew up in Memphis, Tennessee before moving to Detroit, Michigan with his family in 1952 and preached his first sermon at age 17 and was ordained an Elder in the Church of God in Christ by Bishop John Seth Bailey in Detroit in 1958. Bishop Patterson moved back to Memphis in 1961 to assist his father at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ and subsequently established a new congregation in 1975 named Temple of Deliverance, the Cathedral of Bountiful Blessings, in Memphis, Tennessee, and . . .

Whereas, Bishop G.E. Patterson led Temple of Deliverance to outgrow its first church location within three years and built a new \$1.2 million 1,200-seat sanctuary to become the first church in Memphis, Tennessee to be built by black workers that cost more than a million dollars. Additionally, in 1999 Bishop Patterson's visionary leadership moved Temple of Deliverance to purchase a \$13 million campus that featured a 5,000 seat worship center which now houses a membership of 13,000 members, and . . .

Whereas, Bishop G.E. Patterson rose to international prominence as the charismatic leader, Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle of the Church of God in Christ and was instrumental in increasing the denomination membership ranks to more than 6.5 million members in 58 countries, as well as overseeing a global media empire that included television, radio, internet, recording, and publishing divisions; time will not remove the treasures carried in so many hearts, nor dim the shining thoughts and memories that linger as a result of Bishop G.E. Patterson's humble spirit, sage counsel, visionary leadership, anointed preaching, and spirited worshipper of God, and . . .

Whereas, we the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus extend our deepest expression of sympathy to the entire COGIC Denomination, may God's uplifting power carry each of you through your hour of bereavement.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we Celebrate, Rejoice, Praise and Thank God for the example of Bishop Patterson's devoted and faithful life of ministry to humankind, his unselfish dedication as a world-wide spiritual leader to the saints everywhere, and especially within the Church of God in Christ.

Be it further resolved that the Patterson family will remain in our thoughts and prayers with the reminder that Jesus, the Man of Sor-

rows, understands all that transpires in our frail, human lives.

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family and a copy be placed in the records of the Church.

SAFETEA-LU TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my colleagues for their work on the SAFETEA-LU technical corrections bill. After extensive conversations with the local transportation authority in New York City, it has become apparent that several changes are necessary in order for very important transportation infrastructure improvements to be implemented in New York City. Included in this bill are a number of projects that will enhance transportation throughout New York City and in my district in particular.

At my urging, the technical corrections bill includes: \$1,100,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to design and rehabilitate roads commonly known as steep streets, which connect streets on steep grades, in Bronx County in coordination with my colleagues Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. SERRANO; \$2,500,000 to design and construct school safety projects in New York City to be used as part of the recently launched Safe Routes to Schools project, spearheaded by the New York City Department of Transportation; \$1,300,000 for the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority to install security cameras at the Steinway Street, Broadway, 30th Avenue, and Astoria Boulevard subway stations in Astoria, New York, at the suggestion and urging of New York Assemblyman Michael Gianaris; \$100,000 to provide for an independent study of the Newtown Creek oil spill in coordination with my colleague Ms. VELÁZQUEZ; \$500,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to study and implement transportation improvements in the Breezy Point neighborhood of Queens County; \$500,000 for the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority's interagency task force on fencing to fence exposed track along the Long Island Railroad.

These high priority projects will make a considerable contribution to the lives of New York City residents.

Chairman OBERSTAR, Mr. MICA, Chairman DEFAZIO, and Mr. DUNCAN deserve the thanks and appreciation of every Member of this House for their tireless efforts to improve America's transportation system.

I also could not have secured these and other programs within TEA-LU without the help and counsel of individuals here in Washington, and New York City. I would like to thank Joshua Fay-Hurvitz of my staff. I would also like to thank both the Democratic and Republican staff of the Transportation Committee. In particular, I would like to thank Jackie Schmitz and Ward McCarragher of Mr. OBERSTAR's staff. I would also like to thank Commissioner Iris Weinshall, David Woloch, and Andra Horsch at the New York City Department of Transportation. Additionally, I'd

like to thank Derrick Douglas with the State of New York, and Judy Chesser and Bill Daly with the City of New York. Finally I'd like to thank Lee Sander and Chris Boylan with the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority, Mike Weiss at the Federal Highway Administration, and Jessie Torres at the Department of Transportation.

HONORING NATIONAL PEACE
CORPS WEEK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Peace Corps Week, which took place from February 26th until March 1st, 2007.

The Peace Corps was founded in the early 1960s, and has grown to a force of 7,749 volunteers in 73 overseas countries. The Peace Corps has done great work all over the world in numerous fields, including improving agriculture, business development, improving information technology, bettering education, improving healthcare, and protecting the environment.

The Peace Corps provides those who join with extensive training in language skills as well as skills in numerous other fields that give them the foundation to eventually work in any field they choose, much like how I ended up serving my constituents here in Washington after I had spent time in the Peace Corps serving in Nepal.

Today I would especially like to thank Catherine Bukowski, Terry Callan, Katie Clifford, Laurence Dessein, Patrick Gannon, Kerry Goessling, Lisa Jackson, Chetou Lamare, Ryan McCarthy, Samuel Tassone, and Patrick Wayne; all constituents of mine selflessly serving overseas in the Peace Corps. All of these men and women should be commended for their tireless effort, and that is why I stand today to recognize them and all those serving in the Peace Corps.

HONORING COACH TERRY
BUCKLES

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to publicly congratulate Terry Buckles for achieving his 500th career win as Head Coach of the Central Hardin High School Women's Basketball Team.

Throughout his 22 year career, Coach Buckles has epitomized the qualities that make Kentucky hold its basketball heroes in high regard. His steady leadership and the lifelong lessons imparted on his players have made his teams a model of teamwork and good sportsmanship. His success is evident through his players, 26 who have continued their student-athlete careers at the collegiate level.

In addition to his remarkable record of wins, Coach Buckles has coached his teams to six Kentucky High School Athletic Association Regional Championships. In 1996, he took the

Central Hardin Lady Bruins to the state finals and later coached his team to a Kentucky AAU State Championship victory. His success has continued this season, leading the Lady Bruins to a 23–6 record, ranking fourth in the state. With his 500th win, Coach Buckles has joined only seven other coaches who have reached this milestone. He currently stands as the all time leader in wins in the Fifth region and ranks in the top ten for career wins for women's coaches in state history.

Coach Buckles hard work and success at Central Hardin High School has been recognized throughout the Commonwealth. He has received numerous "Coach of the Year" awards; is an inductee of the Fifth Region Hall of Fame; and was honored last year with induction into the Kentucky Association of Basketball Coaches "Court of Honor," the highest tribute a basketball coach in Kentucky can receive.

I would like to recognize Terry Buckles today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his recent coaching milestone. His contributions to education and athletics make him a remarkable citizen worthy of our appreciation and respect.

HONORING RON BOONE

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Ron Boone, a remarkable public servant and friend from my home state of Kentucky. Mr. Boone, a long-time radio news broadcaster in Elizabethtown, passed away unexpectedly in February, 2004. He will be posthumously inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame early next month.

Ron Boone was a legend in Central Kentucky, broadcasting on radio stations WIEL, WASE, WSAC, WRZI and WKMO throughout his 31 year career. He was affectionately known among his colleagues as "The Dean of Newscasters", and was universally praised by listeners and interview subjects for his unbiased reporting.

I have fond memories of Ron Boone dating back to my first days as a candidate in the spring of 1994. Ron reported extensively on my election that year, subsequent elections, and on countless votes and official events that occurred over the course of my first six terms in Congress. I always enjoyed my conversations with Ron, particularly his thoughtful and well-informed observations on our community and Kentucky politics. Indeed, he was very good at what he did.

In addition to his upcoming induction into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame, Ron has also been recipient to the Kentucky Associated Press Broadcasters Association Distinguished Service Award, the Kentucky Mic Award from the Kentucky Broadcasters Association, and was inducted into the Elizabethtown-Hardin County Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame.

Despite many deserved professional accolades, Ron Boone's most enduring legacy was his love of family and his unwavering dedication to his friends, neighbors and community. Though the years were too few, his was a life very well lived.

It is my great privilege to honor the memory of Ron Boone today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, and to send our collective congratulations to his wife Judy who will accept the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame Award on his behalf.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE CLARENCE
SPENCER, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the bravest and most dedicated young heroes of North Texas and of our Nation.

Army Private Clarence Spencer was killed in Blad, Iraq while fighting against enemy forces in one of the most important conflicts our Nation has ever engaged in.

Clarence Spencer gallantly and selflessly gave his life for his country while fighting alongside his fellow soldiers of the First Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas.

Private Spencer is survived by his mother, son and loving wife, Army Private Charlotte Spencer, who has also devoted herself to our Nation's noble military profession.

Clarence Spencer served three tours in Iraq, two of which were as a marine. Wounded in Iraq on a previous tour, he demonstrated tremendous courage by deploying into harm's way once again.

Private Clarence Spencer is gone, but he will never be forgotten. His memory lives on in our hearts and America is eternally grateful for his spirit and dedication.

As Clarence's Dunbar High School football coach said about him, "I've coached faster, stronger and more talented students, but I've never coached anyone that I was more proud of."

That is precisely the way that the Fort Worth community and our Nation feel about soldiers such as Private Clarence Spencer—a true American hero.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KEN GIBSON,
PRESIDENT OF DONNELLY COLLEGE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Ken Gibson, who recently announced his retirement, effective June 30th, following nine very successful years as president of Donnelly College of Kansas City, Kansas.

Donnelly College is an important part of the Kansas City, Kansas, community, and offers more than just an education to students. As Dr. Gibson reflected in a recent article in the Kansas City Kansan, "Donnelly College is essentially about hope. If you are not satisfied, you can change it and you can achieve what you are capable of. We have some really good students and I think we give them a great education."

The recipient of a master's degree from the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. from

Southern Illinois University, Dr. Gibson began his career with Kentucky's Henderson Community College, where he later served as dean of instruction. Prior to returning to Henderson Community College, he was affiliated with John A. Logan College, of Illinois. In 1981, Dr. Gibson moved to Kansas, where he served as Hutchinson Community College's dean of instruction; he later took the same position at Johnson County Community College, located in my congressional district, where he worked until becoming president of Donnelly College in 1998.

Under Dr. Gibson's leadership, Donnelly College reversed a significant drop in enrollment and received over \$12 million in donations and grants, including awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Among the programs offered by Donnelly, the Henry W. Bloch Scholarship offers full tuition to students and is transferable to Rockhurst University or the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Donnelly also participates in Kansas Bridges to the Future, a transferable scholarship to Kansas State University.

Additionally, during Dr. Gibson's tenure, Donnelly College introduced a bachelor's degree program, began development of a licensed practical nurse joint program with Johnson County Community College, and implemented a college extension program at the Lansing Correctional Facility, establishing an opportunity for inmates to earn an associate's degree. As Dr. Gibson noted in the Kansas City Kansan, "It makes a difference for inmates' lives. Of 66 students (involved with the program), only one has gone back to prison."

Madam Speaker, Dr. Ken Gibson has been a distinguished educational leader in the Kansas City community, which is a better place due to his enlightened leadership. He has been a trusted advisor to me on matters of education policy and other concerns involving the Third Congressional District of Kansas. I commend him for his successful tenure with Donnelly College and wish him and his family many happy returns upon his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN
WALTERSHAUSEN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. John Waltershausen of Littleton, CO.

Mr. Waltershausen was born in Chicago, IL, and served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II from 1944–1946. During his military service, he played a heroic role in an incredibly significant moment in history, what many historians now believe to be the end of World War II. I believe his story is most worthy of being preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Five days after the bombing of Nagasaki, copilot John Waltershausen and the other nine crew members of the B-29B Super Fortress *Boomerang* flew, along with 142 other bombers, in what is now known as the "Last Mission."

Awaiting word of surrender from Japan, John and his crew were ordered on one last

assignment, to bomb an oil refinery in Akita, Japan. The Japanese did not think that the U.S. could reach Akita from Guam and, as such, did not build strong defenses there.

Even though the crew of the *Boomerang* knew they might not have enough fuel to get back, the crew proceeded in the mission to take out 67 percent of Japan's remaining oil refining capacity, as well as causing an air raid blackout alert.

Unbeknownst to them, a group of Japanese officers attempted to prolong the war by staging a coup d'état in seizing Japan's Imperial Palace and with it Emperor Hirohito. Upon the takeover of the Imperial Palace, the rebel leader Hatanaka learned that Emperor Hirohito had left the palace. Knowing that Hirohito had recorded a message of surrender that had not yet been broadcast on Japanese radio, the rebel officers hoped to sway the Japanese military into continuing the war with the U.S. However, because of the blackout caused by the U.S. bombing mission that included John Waltershausen's B-29B *Boomerang*, the rebel officers were unable to find the emperor's recording or to broadcast their own message to the Japanese people and soon lost their control of the situation. The message of surrender from Emperor Hirohito was broadcast the next morning.

The "Last Mission" was 3,800 miles and the longest mission flown up to that time. By a bizarre twist of fate, it also marked the end of World War II.

After the war, John married Sally Erwin and they had two daughters, Karen and Karoline. Today, they have 4 grandsons—Gregory, Benjamin, Jacob, and Samuel. John spent the last 45 years of his life in Colorado, with his happiest days being in the beautiful Colorado mountains.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Waltershausen's selfless service to our Nation. His story should be preserved for posterity. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Mr. John Waltershausen.

TRIBUTE TO FRED LEE HARRIS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Richmond icon and youth football coach Fred Lee Harris who died on March 16, 2007. For 27 seasons, Fred Harris dedicated his life to the Richmond Steelers football organization, providing coaching and moral leadership to hundreds of young players who have been a part of this community institution. As Head Coach of the program, Coach Harris was honored as a valuable role model in the community, establishing a consistent winning tradition and a healthy, positive environment for youth both on and off the field.

Freddie Lee Harris, as he was known to his family, was born to the proud parents of Charles and Helen Harris on February 21, 1945, in Monroe, LA. At an early age, Fred moved with his family to Richmond, CA, and soon became the oldest of seven children. He attended school in the Richmond Unified School District and graduated from Harry Ellis

High School in 1963. Mr. Harris was a successful electrician for over 35 years, and became involved with the Richmond Steelers when his own son went out for the team.

Despite raising four children and having a full-time career, Fred managed to volunteer 25 hours a week from July to December in order to coach the Steelers' most advanced team, the Midgets. Up until 2005, the Midgets won six consecutive league championships. Moreover, he was the coach and equipment coordinator for the entire program and attended as many as four football clinics a year to make sure the Steelers kept current with the latest coaching and equipment innovations. Fred's natural leadership abilities extended beyond his passion for football and coaching, and he envisioned his position as a chance to nurture life lessons and good values in his players.

The Richmond Steelers organization is not just a refuge for the youth in Richmond. The five teams, which consist of players from the ages of 6 to 14, are a valuable resource for parents who disapprove of Richmond's violent street life. Many have said that under Coach Harris' guidance, the Steelers is one of the most effective violence prevention programs in Richmond. As a coach and adviser, Fred instilled the type of pride in his players that comes from discipline, hard work, and team work, the type of pride that lasts for generations.

Fred Harris was not just a coach, but an effective mentor. Fred saw the athletic and individual potential in each child with whom he worked, and he was dedicated to helping his players reach that potential through constructive means. Many sons of Richmond would have been lost without this resource.

To Coach Harris' wife, Etta Harris, and his children: Andre, Fredda, Felicia, and Maryhelen, I extend my heartfelt condolences. His loss is shared not only by those who knew Fred personally but also by all those in Richmond who benefited from his direction and hard work over the years. We will be forever grateful for the integrity, passion and unwavering commitment with which he sought to make the legendary Richmond Steelers a safe place to foster hope.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF PEARL RICHTER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mrs. Pearl Marcus Richter of Toledo, Ohio, on the occasion of her forthcoming 90th birthday. Pearl will be celebrating this milestone event with family members, including two grandchildren, who will be gathering this weekend in the Washington, DC area where Pearl's daughter and son have each settled.

Pearl was born on April 6, 1917, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to immigrant parents (like so many other fine Americans) on that momentous day in history during which Congress declared war against Germany and the U.S. entered the conflict in Europe that became World War I. Her mother was ill during most of her childhood and Pearl was always a great help in the home. Pearl graduated from Shortridge

High School in Indianapolis in 1934 at the age of 17. By then, her mother had passed away, leaving Pearl to be the female head of a household that included her father and one older and one younger brother. In 1940, life changed dramatically for Pearl. She met Morris A. Richter in February, it was love at first sight and in May they married and moved to Terre Haute, Indiana, where Morris worked.

For nearly 15 months, December 1944–February 1946, Pearl was at home alone to care for a daughter, born in 1940, and a son, born in 1944, while Morris served in the American Area Campaign of the U.S. Navy. Both children share the same birthday, July 18, and Pearl always jokes that it was because her husband was an accountant. In the summer of 1958, the Richter family moved to Toledo, Ohio, where Morris had taken a job with the federal government, and into a house on Cheltenham Road in the Old Orchard district. Daughter Ceceile Kay graduated from the University of Toledo in 1963 and son Sheldon Jay graduated from Ohio State University in 1967. Pearl was at both graduations but unfortunately Morris was not; he had died of a heart attack in October 1961, just weeks after his 46th birthday. Pearl went to work soon afterwards as a sales clerk with Petrie Stores and had worked her way up to assistant manager before she retired.

Pearl has always been active in her synagogues and taught Sunday School in both Terre Haute and Toledo. In Toledo, she is a member of B'nai Israel Synagogue and its Sisterhood and its Synagogue Organized Afternoon Program. She is also an active member and was an officer for several years in the Friendship Club, one of many activities she enjoys through the Jewish Family Services Senior Adult Center. Pearl lived in Kenwood Gardens for over 35 years and since late 2001 has enjoyed living at Carriage House East where she is a regular caller at monthly bingo and a semi-regular in an informal poker club in which she is one of the youngest members. Pearl's favorite activity besides working crossword puzzles is Mah Jongg, and she plays as frequently as she can. She is a member of the National Mah Jongg League, having joined soon after its inception in 1937, and she is always the first in her groups to learn the rules' changes each year.

Even more so than any of the above, her family and friends know Pearl as a favorite baker. Pearl used to bake almost every day and most of this she would give away. Now she has cut her baking back to a few times a month. A visitor to her home is always served a cup of steaming hot coffee or, perhaps, fresh-squeezed lemon or lime ade, and a baked dessert. If something fresh is not on the counter, her visitors need not worry. There are always tins of baked goods in her freezer. Her family has been wishing for some time that Pearl would move to the Washington, DC area where one of the pleasures, besides her company, will be the ritual of opening her freezer to see what baked goods are inside. Pearl has always been generous about sharing her recipes. Family members and close friend Bea Goldman have now sent copies of these recipes to Pearl's daughter, who will be combining them with recipes in her collection and from her memory into a recipe book to be provided to guests after the dinner in honor of Pearl's birthday.

I join with Pearl's family and friends in wishing her a most joyous birthday, spent looking

back in fond recollection and looking forward to future years. Congratulations and best wishes!

INTRODUCTION OF THE BRIGHT ENERGY SAVINGS ACT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Bulb Replacement In Government with high-efficiency Technology Energy Savings Act, otherwise known as the BRIGHT energy savings act.

Today Americans are rightly concerned about the impact of foreign energy dependence on our national security and the effect of global climate change on the future of our planet. The BRIGHT Energy Savings Act will help us to address both of these issues by cutting down significantly on energy use by the Federal government, and at the same time it will save millions of taxpayer dollars. It's a win for the environment, a win for national security, and a win for American taxpayers.

This bill directs the GSA to replace commonly used low efficiency light bulbs with high efficiency bulbs whenever a new bulb is installed in a GSA-owned federal building.

The impact of the BRIGHT Energy Savings Act could be significant. The GSA owns approximately 1,800 facilities with about 174 million square feet of space. At least 3 million lights throughout the Federal government could be upgraded to high efficiency bulbs.

One type of high efficiency bulb that could be used is the Energy Star-certified Compact Fluorescent Light bulb, also known as a CFL. CFLs use approximately 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs to provide the same amount of light and they last approximately 8–10 times longer. Replacing an ordinary bulb with a comparable CFL saves up to \$74 in energy costs over the bulb's lifetime. It's easy to see that hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars can be saved by implementing this bill.

As an engineer by training, I am fascinated by the promise of new and emerging technologies and what they mean for our future. In addition to CFLs, new halogen technologies are expected to become commercially available later this year. Further down the road, LEDs (light-emitting diodes) will revolutionize the lighting industry, leading to vastly more efficient lighting and the prospect of bulbs that do not burn out. Much of this technology represents American ingenuity and innovation, and provides hope for a brighter future. And with the Federal government purchasing large quantities of these high efficiency bulbs, this next generation of technology will be less costly to put in American homes.

Reduced energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and saved taxpayer dollars. It's a common sense, practical measure that is simply the right thing to do. A bipartisan group of more than 35 members have already joined us on the BRIGHT Energy Savings Act; clearly, the future is bright.

INTRODUCING THE AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricultural education program.

Think about this for a moment. These kids are trying to better themselves, earn some money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them. It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of government "for the children" we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes! What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government!

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ALLEN MOSTEIRO, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of one of the bravest and most dedicated heroes of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

Sergeant First Class Allen Mosteiro was an 18-year veteran of the Army who was assigned as a scout leader in the first cavalry division based at Fort Hood, Texas.

He gallantly and selflessly gave his life for his Country as a result of wounds he received during a firefight in Taji, Iraq on February 13, 2007.

Sergeant Mosteiro is survived by his wife, son, parents, one brother and three sisters.

As a career soldier and senior non-commissioned officer, Sergeant Mosteiro's leadership was instrumental in developing younger soldiers and he did not take this responsibility lightly.

Sergeant First Class Mosteiro is gone, but he will never be forgotten. His memory lives on through the family he left behind and in the soldiers that he so ably led.

Our community and Nation honor Sergeant First Class Mosteiro's memory and we are grateful for his 18 years of faithful and distinguished service to America.

TRIBUTE TO NASA ASTRONAUT
STEVE HAWLEY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished, courageous Kansan, NASA astronaut Steve Hawley, who will be inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame on May 5th.

Steve Hawley, age 55, flew aboard the space shuttle *Discovery* during its maiden voyage in 1984 and is a veteran of four other shuttle missions. An accomplished astronomer, he helped deploy two of NASA's four Great Observatories, spacecraft that have shed unprecedented light on the origins and evolution of the universe. He flew aboard *Columbia* on a mission that landed just 10 days before the January 1986 *Challenger* accident. He helped deploy the Hubble Space Telescope during a 1990 *Discovery* mission and then serviced NASA's flagship observatory during a 1997 *Discovery* flight. His final shuttle mission was a 1999 *Columbia* flight during which the Chandra X-Ray Observatory was deployed. He now serves as director of NASA's Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Directorate at the Johnson Space Center.

Born in Ottawa, Kansas, Dr. Hawley considers Salina, Kansas, to be his home town. He received a B.A. in physics and astronomy (with highest distinction) from the University of Kansas in 1973 and a Ph.D. in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of California in 1977. His research involved spectrophotometry of gaseous nebulae and emission-like galaxies with particular emphasis on chemical abundance determinations for these objects. He was selected as a NASA astronaut in 1978.

A veteran of five space flights, Dr. Hawley has logged a total of 32 days in space. Closer to home, he has visited with student groups and community organizations in the Third Congressional District of Kansas on six occasions: in 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. I look forward to his return to my congressional district next month, on April 11th. On behalf of the people of Kansas' Third Congressional District, I commend Steve Hawley on his upcoming induction into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame, congratulate him on his five successful space shuttle missions, and thank him for the many hours he has spent making space exploration and space technology come alive for his audiences in my congressional district.

TRIBUTE TO ANNETTE KLANG
SMAIL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Annette Klang Smail

who passed away March 10, 2007, in Marin County, California, after a lifetime of activism. Annette Smail's feisty grassroots approach worked on both the local and national levels, as she advocated nonstop for causes she believed in.

Annette was born in Napa County in 1920 and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1943 with a degree in English. She moved to Chicago where she met famed community organizer Saul Alinsky. She was a council delegate in his "Back of the Yards" neighborhood social movement, worked as a reporter and editor for its journal, and traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for meat packers.

In 1949, Annette married Air Force serviceman Donald Smail, and moved to Novato, California, with him in 1966. Upon their divorce in 1971, she discovered that she was no longer eligible for military medical benefits. And thus began a national crusade to secure these rights for former spouses of military personnel.

She felt the regulations left many women vulnerable and, in 1977, persuaded then-Congressman John Burton to introduce a bill to grant medical benefits to ex-spouses who had been married at least 20 years. The bill passed in 1984. Many women have benefited from her effort, especially older women whom she felt were often dependent upon their husbands after years of marriage.

Annette founded the Older Women's Caucus of National Women's Political Caucus, was a delegate to a White House Conference on Aging, and, in Marin County, co-founded the Novato Human Needs Center. In 1991, she was inducted into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame. Her commitment to ordinary people and her boundless energy inspired admiring reactions from her friends and family, and Rep. Burton called her "the grande dame of the women's movement in Marin."

Madam Speaker, we will miss Annette Smail's grassroots activism and her tireless efforts for a good cause. Her example has motivated many others to fight for their rights and not give up. And she paved the way for women like me to become involved and seek leadership positions. I am pleased to honor her today for all she has meant to so many.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KARL CARSON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. Karl Carson of Fort Collins, Colorado. Dr. Carson was quoted in 2005 saying he lived by a simple pledge: "I hope, when I leave this place, I contributed to making it a better place." His legacy in Fort Collins was indeed a life of community service and devotion to family.

Karl was born on September 27, 1915, in Wichita, Kansas, to Daniel and Clara Helfrick Carson. He was raised on the family dairy farm and every day before he went to school he milked cows and bottled milk. In high school, he met his lifelong sweetheart Wilma Schull and they married August 23, 1936. To this union five children were born: Allen, James, Daniel, Thomas and LuAnn. The Car-

sons also have eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Karl Carson attended Fort Hays State University in Kansas a music scholarship. He paid his way through college by singing at weddings and parties. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserve during World War II. Mr. Carson was a communications officer on the U.S.S. *Strive*, a mine sweeper.

Following his military service, Mr. Carson attended the University of Nebraska and received his doctor of dental surgery degree in 1951. The Carson family moved to Fort Collins where Dr. Carson started his dental practice in 1954. His practice thrived and continued until his retirement in 1994. For 30 of those 43 years he practiced dentistry with his son, Tom. In 1991, the Colorado Dental Association gave him its Distinguished Service award.

Dr. Carson was a member of the Fort Collins City Council from 1965 to 1973. He held the city's top post, mayor, for five terms from 1968 to 1973 at a time when City Council elected the mayor. He considered his support of adding fluoride to Fort Collins water supply among his greatest achievements. During his tenure, he started a program called Designing Tomorrow Today, which led to the construction of the Lincoln Center, city hall, and the downtown library.

Dr. Carson's community service is legendary. He was the director of downtown Fort Collins development, president of Colorado Municipal League, and the Colorado League of Cities. He was also a member of Kiwanis since 1938. Continuing his love of music and youth, he lent his expertise to participants in the Kiwanis annual Stars of Tomorrow Talent Show.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Karl Carson indeed fulfilled his legacy of leaving this world a better place. The citizens of Fort Collins, Colorado will never forget him. He was a man of love and commitment to his family and community. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Karl Carson.

PRIORITIZING COLONY COLLAPSE
DISORDER RESEARCH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Pollinator Protection Act." This legislation reflects my deep concern for the future of agriculture in this country by authorizing funding to confront the drastic decline of North American pollinators.

Madam Speaker, an alarming number of honey bee colonies have experienced irregular die offs throughout the United States in recent years. This phenomenon has been recently termed "Colony Collapse Disorder" because of its lack of recognizable underlying cause. This legislation that I introduce today will prioritize addressing Colony Collapse Disorder to protect the viability of American farmers.

This legislation is crucial because the security of food production is in jeopardy when there is a threat to the lives of honey bees. These little pollinators are a keystone species in their responsibility for the pollination of one-third of the crops that we consume. More specifically, pollination by honey bees promotes

healthy growth and adds over \$15 billion annually to the value of U.S. crops.

Madam Speaker, the number of honey bee colonies throughout North America has gradually declined in recent decades due to parasites, pathogens, toxins and a host of other environmental factors. However, this rate of decline has increased significantly with the emergence of Colony Collapse Disorder. If the current rate of decline continues, the United States will be forced to rely more heavily on imported foods. This destabilization of American food security would have adverse effects on the availability, price, and quality of the many fruits, vegetables, and other products that depend on animal pollination.

I am proud of the vibrant variety of produce and citrus my district contributes to our Nation's food supply. However, this is an issue that not only impacts Floridians, but all citizens throughout this Nation. This is why I am honored that the Florida Department of Agriculture has contributed significantly to addressing Colony Collapse Disorder through the work of Jerry Hayes, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Plant and Apiary Inspection. Mr. Hayes has contributed significantly to the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group and I commend his effort along with those of his colleagues at the Pennsylvania State University, the United States Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Research Service, Bee Alert Technology, Inc., North Carolina State University, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Madam Speaker, it is necessary to provide funding to sustain the vital research of the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group and the United States Department of Agriculture. As a former member of the Committee on Science and a graduate of Fisk University with an undergraduate degree in Zoology, I understand the value of their critical research. More specifically, this legislation will authorize immediate funding for laboratories conducting agricultural research at United States Department of Agriculture facilities as well as a reserve of \$10,000,000 for cooperative state research, education, and extension service grants to conduct relevant research to protect American agriculture. This legislation also authorizes \$5,250,000 over five years to conduct research specifically on Colony Collapse Disorder in the many affected States.

Madam Speaker, it is vital that this Congress takes on the task of supporting the work of the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group. I would like to commend my colleague Chairman CARDOZA of the Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture for taking up this charge by calling for a hearing on "Honey Bee Decline" this upcoming Thursday, March 29, 2007. I hope that the Pollinator Protection Act that I introduce today will aid in this cause and urge this Congress to prioritize this effort. I look forward to working with Chairman CARDOZA on this issue and offer my utmost support for restoring stability to honey bee pollinated agriculture in this great Nation.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the

Tuskegee Airmen on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal. "Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experiment," the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air and bravely served our Nation during World War II.

In July 1941, 13 men started the first aviation cadet class at Tuskegee Army Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. After 9 months of vigorous flight training, 5 men successfully completed the program and graduated from the Tuskegee Flying School. These 5 airmen included CPT Lemuel R. Custis of my home State of Connecticut, who went on to become one of the first members of the 99th Fighter Squadron. The United States sent the 99th Fighter Squadron to North Africa and later Europe, where the Tuskegee Airmen proved to be valuable to the Allied Forces. In total, the Tuskegee Airmen of the 99th, 100th, 301st, and 302nd Fighter Squadrons distinguished themselves with 1,578 missions. Also, the 332nd earned a Presidential Unit Citation for "outstanding courage, aggressiveness, and combat technique" while escorting heavy bombers over Germany. The next generation of these outstanding individuals featured another constituent of mine, Flight Officer Connie Nappier, Jr., of Hartford, Connecticut. Nappier strived to excel at his work and passed every navigation exercise. Despite his accomplishments, he and others were constantly accused of cheating or denied credit for their outstanding achievements, which went directly to the white instructors. Connie Nappier and 100 other men were even thrown in prison for attempting to use the segregated Officer's Club at Freeman Field in Indiana, only to be released at the order of President Truman. The brave efforts of men like Connie Nappier, Jr., paved the way for African American aviators in the military.

Finally, these outstanding individuals will officially receive the award and credit that they have long deserved. Unfortunately, my constituent, Lemuel Custis passed away in February of 2005 at the age of 89, and will not have the opportunity to receive the honor he long deserved for his brave service to our Nation. Custis himself recognized in his own words that the Tuskegee Airmen "were fighting a war on two fronts. They were fighting the enemy in Europe and Africa and they fought a Jim Crow society at home." Lemuel Custis was a hero and a true patriot, but is widely remembered to be a "humble man who loved his country." Lemuel Custis, Connie Nappier, Jr., and the rest of the Tuskegee Airmen bravely rose above the obstacles set by the rampant discrimination of the period, and courageously defended a democracy that had not yet embraced them as true citizens.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the Tuskegee Airmen for their outstanding service to our Nation. I feel privileged to assist in honoring heroes like Lemuel Custis and Connie Nappier, Jr. who stood up to defend our Nation in the midst of World War II, and helped to break down the racial barriers of the United States military. We all owe them our appreciation and respect for their valiant contribution to this country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ENSIGN JESSE L. BROWN, USN

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the life and service of ENS Jesse LeRoy Brown, United States Navy. Ensign Brown was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on 13 October 1926. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1946 and was appointed a Midshipman, USN, the following year. After attending Navy pre-flight school and flight training, he was designated a Naval Aviator in October 1948, the first African-American to achieve this status. Midshipman Brown was then assigned to Fighter Squadron 32. He received his commission as an Ensign in April 1949.

During the Korean War, he operated from USS *Leyte*, flying F4U-4 Corsair fighter aircraft in support of United Nations forces. On December 4, 1950, while on a close air support mission near the Chosin Reservoir, Ensign Brown's plane was hit by enemy fire and crashed. Despite heroic efforts by other aviators, he could not be rescued and died in his aircraft. ENS Jesse L. Brown was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his Korean War combat service.

In honor of his service, the Secretary of the Navy named the 38th ship in the Knox-class of frigates the USS *Jesse L. Brown*.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Jesse's memory, and celebrating the addition of a plaque in his memory to the Naval Aviation Monument Park in Virginia Beach, to be presented May 5, 2007. Ensign Brown was both a pioneer and a model of service to country, who gave his life that we might enjoy our freedom.

DR. RABBI PAUL B. SILTON

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, this morning I had the honor of introducing our guest chaplain for today, my very dear friend and teacher, Dr. Rabbi Paul Sifton of Temple Israel in Albany, New York.

In order for House Members to have a greater understanding of Rabbi Sifton's extraordinary accomplishments, I submit a more detailed description of his impressive background:

Dr. Rabbi Paul Sifton, Rabbi of Temple Israel, the largest conservative synagogue in northeast New York, received his B.A. in Philosophy from Boston University, an M.A. in Hebrew Literature and Rabbinical Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1970, and a Doctor of Divinity in 1996. At his graduation from the Jewish Theological Seminary, he was awarded the top prize in Pastoral Counseling. While at the Seminary, he studied at the Meir Yeshiva in Brooklyn and taught at religious schools in Fort Lee, New Jersey; Hartford, Connecticut; and Rumson, New Jersey. He also served as Gabbai of the Seminary Synagogue under the

supervision of Dr. Rabbi Saul Lieberman and Dr. Rabbi Louis Finkelstein. Prior to his move to Albany, New York, Rabbi Silton spent 6 years as a teacher and Education Director at Camps Ramah in Glen Spey, New York and in Palmer, Massachusetts. Rabbi Silton arrived in Albany after serving as Rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams, Massachusetts. While in North Adams, Rabbi Silton taught at Williams College and served as prison chaplain.

Already in 1974, the pattern of Rabbi Silton's Rabbinate began to diverge from that of his colleagues. Here at Temple Israel, he began his career as Educational Director for students N-12, including the Communal High School, Camp Givah Director and assistant to Rabbi Kieval. In each of those areas, he actively fostered growth and change. Gradually the nursery school expanded into a full Early Childhood Center, servicing day care needs of pre-kindergarten youngsters and their parents. It now includes Baby and Me, Mommy (or Daddy) and Me toddler programs, and morning and afternoon nursery. The Religious School extended to 7 hours a week and featured a school-wide Israeli Dance Program, which eventually grew to present dance performances in Albany, Boston, and New York City. On Shabbatot and High Holidays, preprimary and primary children in addition to "Juniors" could now attend services especially designed for them. As they grew older, students could tour and study in Israel with double the amount of scholarship aid from generous member endowments and community sources. Adults could now attend class 5 days a week and occasionally participate in Hebrew Reading Marathons; Professor Stephen Berk's lecture series became a most successful Adult Education program.

At Camp Givah, Rabbi Silton founded the Kibbutz Program, inspired the building of Yam Sarah (Givah's lake), the arts and crafts center, and the early childhood shelter. He introduced and developed programs in boating, gymnastics, computers, horseback riding, and Red Cross Boating Certification. For younger children who literally could not wait until next summer's Givah excitement, he originated and organized Camp Horef Katan, a winter camp.

As Rabbi Silton's responsibilities increased, so his avid interest in many other areas continued to expand. He founded Holocaust Survivors and Friends in Pursuit of Justice and he hosted the first major 3-day national Holocaust conference for 1500 participants in April 1984 at Temple Israel. Since then he has organized a multitude of services for the community Kristalnacht and Holocaust Memorial commemorations, featuring international figures such as Beate Klarsfeld. He visited Germany several times in support of those testifying at war crimes trials, to officiate at an interfaith service in Passau, Germany, and at other events that united survivors and liberators.

Silton's most passionate efforts, however, have focused on Temple and community. In addition to attending to traditional Rabbinical duties at Temple Israel, he greatly expanded the Bar and Bat Mitzvah roles of boys and girls, initiated full reading of the scrolls by women on various holidays, a women's prayer group, Rosh Chodesh benching, P'Sukei D'Zimra, and regular Torah reading; he introduced Birkat Kohanim on an ongoing basis, a hashkamah (early) minyan and a learners' minyan. He also began a daily study program

of Jewish text which takes place every morning. This study program has continued for the past 10 years. In addition, he strengthened the daily minyanim, instituted Yom Kippur dialogues with inspiring international figures, initiated holiday dinners and workshops, organized Hassidic Song Festivals, Cantorial concerts and innumerable Kallot featuring international performers and scholars. Through the efforts of Rabbi Silton, Temple Israel has received numerous awards from United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism including those for: Israel Affairs, Camp Givah, Performing Arts, Community Relations and Israel/Masorti Affairs as well as Education Awards for Programming, High School Education and the Framework for Excellence Synagogue School Program Award. He assisted in the founding of HADAR, the award-winning Judaic Art and Book Center at Temple Israel. Rabbi Silton has also been featured in four books including *The Outraged Conscience* by Rochelle G. Saidel, 1984; *Against the Stream: Growing Up Where Hitler Used to Live* by Anna Rosmus, 2002; *Out of Passau: Leaving a City Hitler Called Home* by Anna Rosmus, 2004; and in a soon to be published book about the Sabbath by Christopher Ringwald.

All of the above mentioned activities attracted the community to Temple Israel but Silton directly involved himself in countless community events as well. For nearly 20 years he directed the Communal High School and taught at the Bet Shraga Capital District Hebrew Academy. When Soviet Jewish immigration was at its height, he supervised the ritual circumcisions of nearly all Soviet immigrants' male children, arranged and officiated at the first Russian Jewish wedding and Bar Mitzvah of these newly settled immigrants in the Capital District. In addition to serving on a host of community boards and committees including the Police Review Board under Mayor Gerald Jennings, he initiated the first Jewish-Latino Seder, hosted the third annual Black-Jewish Seder, assisted the Aviva chapter of B'nai B'rith with the first Seder for the developmentally disabled, discussed Judaism with hundreds of church groups and taught basic Judaism classes and has lectured at area colleges including College of St. Rose, Maria College, Siena College, and SUNY Albany. He also worked with Mayor Jennings on the observance of Yom HaShoah to honor the late Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese "Oskar Schindler". In 1994, Silton built the first mikveh owned by Temple Israel to serve the congregation and the entire Capital district community. The building of the mikveh has been an inspiration to other conservative congregations throughout the country. An article about it will be coming out in the very near future of United Synagogue Review.

On an ongoing basis, Rabbi Silton teaches in the Temple Israel Educational Center: junior high, high school, and adult education departments. Following the Six Day War, Rabbi Silton spent a year of study in Israel with his wife, Faye. While studying at the Hebrew University and the Rav Kook Yeshiva in Jerusalem, he learned to become a Mohel. Ordained in 1968 by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, he has officiated at thousands of B'rith Milah from Syracuse to the Catskills to Western Massachusetts. Rabbi Silton and his wife, Faye, are the parents of Elana (Dr. Ari) Moskowitz, Michal (David, Esq.) Kahan, Dr. Akiva (Dr. Sharon) Silton, Tamar, Esq. (Jer-

emy) Epstein, Aviva (Ami) Robinson, Nava Silton and Shira Silton. They currently have 15 grandchildren.

COMMENDING THE ADELPHI NEW YORK STATEWIDE BREAST CANCER HOTLINE & SUPPORT PROGRAM

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Adelphi New York Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline & Support Program ("the Program"). The Program, established 27 years ago at the Adelphi University School of Social Work, was one of the first breast cancer programs in the country. This highly respected and valued program has developed important services that have been replicated throughout the U.S., and volunteers have been crucial to the services provided. On April 19, 2007, the Program volunteers who have given women a place to turn when faced with breast cancer will be recognized.

The dedicated volunteers and staff of the Program offer crucial information and emotional support to people throughout New York who are coping with breast cancer. Almost all the 100 volunteers have had breast cancer. They know the fear and confusion that comes with the discovery of a breast lump or the diagnosis of breast cancer. Because they have "been there," they immediately provide hope and much more to callers. These highly trained and well-supervised volunteers direct callers to the latest information, sending pamphlets and other resources when needed. They let them know what services are available in their communities. And they are a "shoulder to lean on" for callers. They are there to listen and to help and get people through difficult times.

My office has used the program many times when constituents have come to me looking for help for themselves or their family members. I have been able to refer them to the Adelphi Program knowing that they will be handled with care and concern and given the best possible assistance. In the Healthy Families and Communities Subcommittee, of which I am the Chairwoman, we have explored the need for volunteers and I understand how critical volunteerism is to this Nation. I thank the Program and its volunteers for their work.

TRIBUTE TO MINNIE BELLE
MCINTOSH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Minnie Belle McIntosh, who celebrates her 100th birthday on March 30, 2007.

Minnie Belle McIntosh has led an extraordinary life. When she was only 4 years old, her mother died of tuberculosis, leaving her and her sister Anne as orphans to be shuttled

between relatives in Mississippi and Texas. Despite this early hardship, the bright and lively Minnie Belle graduated from the Blue Mountain College boarding school and attended college at the Mississippi State College for Women, where she majored in math and physics. Her senior thesis on "The Talking Machines" included correspondence with Thomas Edison.

After college, Minnie Belle took up the only occupation available to an educated woman in that region and became a schoolteacher. The drop in crop prices following World War I hit Mississippi particularly hard, but Roosevelt's New Deal legislation opened up new opportunities for its residents. Minnie Belle became an extension officer; her job was to inform rural families of the best ways to provide their children with good nutrition. Because of her gender, her employment was never stable, and she traveled from Minneapolis to California to Texas to Mississippi to perform her job, but her "people skills" made her an excellent social worker.

During World War II Minnie Belle, like many other women, went to work in Washington, DC. She was employed by the Department of Agriculture, from which she retired in 1972.

Her volunteer work in Maryland in recent years has been exemplary. The Shepherd's Table and The Clothes Closet were founded to feed and clothe the homeless, and Minnie Belle marshaled the efforts of some 50 volunteers. Confronted with a mountain of donated clothes, she used the size measurements from a Sears catalogue to mark trousers and dresses, and she guided the clients with good humor and common sense. The success of The Shepherd's Table in Maryland and Montgomery County owes much to Minnie Belle McIntosh's involvement.

At 85, Minnie Belle moved into a retirement community, Bedford Court in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she turned her attention to recycling. She quickly whipped the residents into shape, creating an army of recyclers, who dutifully washed out bottles and cans, separated paper trash from garbage, and happily signed up to be floor recycling monitors. She and Bedford Court are recipients of more than a half dozen awards recognizing their efforts.

Her greatest asset, however, besides her persistence, is her interest in people and kindness to all. Even now, as she reaches 100 years, she knows everyone's name and story.

On this special occasion, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Minnie Belle McIntosh on her 100th birthday and in recognizing her as a woman of great perseverance, kindness, and accomplishment. I am delighted to wish her a year of good health and happiness and to thank her for her wonderful contributions to our community.

HONORING JOHN HEIBEL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor John Heibel, who serves as a Storekeeper Second Class Petty Officer in the United States Coast Guard. Recently, Mr. Heibel was awarded Baltimore Area Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year.

The Coast Guard requires the recipient of this award to demonstrate pride, professionalism, dedication, and to represent the Coast Guard's core values. Mr. Heibel has excelled in all of these categories, over-qualifying him for this prestigious award.

Mr. Heibel possesses a solid set of leadership skills and he has utilized them in the noblest way possible: serving this country. Throughout his career, Mr. Heibel's leadership skills have propelled him forward. He began as a Seaman Recruit, then moved up to Storekeeper Third Class, and currently serves as Storekeeper Second Class. In all of these positions, Heibel demonstrated a commitment to customer service, setting a respectable example for his colleagues to follow. He continues to challenge himself as a leader by enrolling in Officer Candidate School.

Mr. Heibel has also committed himself to community service, volunteering for several causes and organizations. He has volunteered for the Fort Meade Turkey Donation, helping to prepare turkey dinners for low-income families in the Baltimore area. Heibel also served as a unit Morale representative and organized a series of Morale events. He planned a picnic at a Baltimore Orioles game which featured the ELC color guard in the opening ceremony. Heibel coordinated a private viewing of the movie "The Guardian," an event which produced a significant turn-out. He also helps to fundraise by selling raffle tickets and concessions at Coast Guard softball games.

Mr. Heibel's accomplishments extend into the classroom as well. After earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Heibel has decided to continue his education by pursuing a master's degree. He has enrolled in and completed a series of challenging courses such as Business Calculus and Intermediate Accounting.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring John Heibel. This outstanding individual will never stop challenging himself and his record of success demonstrates that there is no limit to all he can achieve. Mr. Heibel's aspiration for knowledge, strides as a leader, and service to his country all prove that he is worthy of recognition. Let his outstanding accomplishments serve as an example to us all as we work to improve our communities and our country.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DR. M. JWAHIR BRATHWAITE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. M. Jwahir Brathwaite. Dr. Brathwaite is a graduate of the Howard University School of Business and Public Administration, the Howard University Graduate School of Divinity, and the United Theological Seminary. She has also received educational certification from the University of Dayton.

Dr. Brathwaite serves the community as an associate pastor at the Stuyvesant-Heights Christian Church in Brooklyn, New York. Ordained at the Concord Baptist Church of Christ in 1997, Dr. Brathwaite is a Professor of Religious Studies and Holistic Health and

Wellness at the College of New Rochelle's School of New Resources at both the Brooklyn and Harlem Campuses.

Dr. Brathwaite has been a fitness-professional for more than 25 years. She has worked with the YMCA in Brooklyn, New York, Washington, DC, and Memphis, Tennessee. She presently serves her community through the YMCA Bedford-Stuyvesant Branch.

In addition to teaching for the College of New Rochelle, Dr. Brathwaite has taught fitness health and wellness for Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, Shelby State Community College, and the University of Memphis in Tennessee. Dr. Brathwaite has trained International Dance and Exercise Association instructors and several others who have gone on to teach at places such as: the New York State Conservatory Police, colleges and universities, family fitness ministries, and numerous other fitness facilities.

Dr. Brathwaite is the president and founder of Family Fitness Ministries, a ministry focusing on fitness and wellness for churches and their communities. Dr. Brathwaite's training roster includes: Author Zora Neal Hurston; the internationally acclaimed singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock; late film, stage, and television actress Rosland Cash; and a host of Fortune 500 Company professionals.

A Christian broadcaster for more than 20 years, Dr. Brathwaite has carried the healing message of God throughout the community through public speaking and outreach. The world of Christian Broadcasting afforded her the opportunity to work with the National Association of Broadcasters' number one religious radio organization in the country, Salem Communications Corp. She also worked with A&M Records where she represented such gospel recording artists as: Richard Smallwood; Al Green; the Clark Sisters; Reverend Shirley Caesar; Rosie Grier; and Sweet Honey in the Rock.

Dr. Brathwaite has been recognized numerous times for her community involvement and leadership. She has received awards from the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., the Ford Foundation, Outstanding Women of America, John Burroughs Elementary School, and the International Who's Who of Professional Business Women just to name a few.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this pillar of our community the Reverend Dr. M. Jwahir Brathwaite for all that she has accomplished.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Reverend Dr. M. Jwahir Brathwaite.

COMMENDING JACOB WEST

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jacob West of Marcus High School for his recognition as a 2007 Presidential Scholar.

The Presidential Scholar Commission honors up to 121 graduating seniors each year for outstanding academic achievement. This award is one of our Nation's highest for high school students. Jacob is being honored as a Presidential Scholar for his exceptional performance on the SAT.

At Marcus High School, Jacob is a member and leader within the Marcus band, who won a State championship this year. He is also involved in the Junior Classical League, the National Honor Society, and other organizations. He has received a plethora of academic awards at Marcus and was a National Merit finalist.

Jacob is a notable example of how the education system in Texas is committed to fostering growth in students and giving them the skills they need to achieve. Congratulations to Jacob, his family, and Marcus High School for this outstanding achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARTIN
VIRSIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Martin Virsis for his unwavering dedication and service to the veterans' community of Northeast Ohio.

Martin began his path to success by earning a bachelor's degree at Kent State University and later by receiving his master's degree at Ohio University. As a licensed nursing home administrator, Martin used his talents and implemented his knowledge to manage several nursing facilities in Ohio. His devotion to help others in need continued as he began to offer transportation for those in the community who encountered challenges with mobility due to their disabilities.

As an Army veteran, Martin is no stranger to the sacrifices and the hardships that face those who have courageously served our country, only to come home as unrecognized heroes. Because of Martin's desire to help those who have fought to protect us, it was no surprise when he, Joe Paul and Patricia Cicowicz established Mobil Martin.

Since 1996, Mobil Martin has provided Northeast Ohio veterans with quality service and the recognition they deserve. Each year Mobil Martin makes donations to various charities that benefit the veterans' community and local businesses.

Every June, Mobil Martin provides transportation to Founder's Day, a celebration of the Founder's Path Organization, which gives opportunities to disabled and less fortunate veterans without homes. He also ensures that the transportation needs for the VA Per Diem at 2100 Lakeside Avenue are met. In addition to the multitude of services Mobil Martin provides, Mobil Martin also employs a large percentage of U.S. veterans.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Martin Virsis for his commitment to helping those less fortunate. His integrity and selflessness bring great pride to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I was unable to record my rollcall votes No. 187, No.

188, and No. 189. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

A TRIBUTE TO IRVING
FEINARMAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor my valiant constituent, Tec. Sgt. Irving Feinarman, as he receives the Jubilee of Liberty Medal for his courageous acts during the Normandy Invasion, and his illustrious legacy of courage throughout World War II.

Mr. Feinarman was drafted at the age of 22 into the army. He trained at Fort Meade, Camp Picket, and Fort Dix before he was sent into combat in North Africa and Sicily. After operations ended in Sicily, he was sent to train in England for the 8 months leading to a great invasion and then, as he put it, "Before I knew it, I was on Omaha Beach on D Day!"

Tec. Sgt. Feinarman was supposed to be part of the second wave on the beach, landing at 6 a.m., but the beach was so overrun, it was difficult to tell the first from the second wave of soldiers. He and his fellow soldiers just kept fighting, cut off from their leadership, and pushing onward until they found themselves fighting in the hedgerows of Normandy.

As the Battle of the Bulge began, Feinarman had been given leave in Paris for a few days. Suddenly, however, all American soldiers were rounded up. He and his compatriots did not know that they were being put back into combat as the Germans were about to start "their big push, trying to get us all out of Europe, period. Giving us everything they had."

Mr. Feinarman was awarded the Bronze Star for his valor in Aachen, Germany. Surrounded by enemy tanks and cut off from the commander of his unit, he volunteered to cross the field and get help. He was shot at, but got through unharmed, and returned with the assistance his company needed.

At the end of the war, Irving Feinarman was the only man from his entire original company—over 200 soldiers—who survived and remained unwounded, an amazing victory itself.

To his family and his lifelong friend Bill Etros, Mr. Feinarman's warmth and laughter are part of every fond memory. With great humility and humor, he insists that he is no hero for his brave actions, that he was only doing his duty. Would that there were some recognition beyond a medal that this country could award Mr. Feinarman who came through the hell of war with a laugh in his heart and a smile on his lips.

I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me today in expressing the Nation's gratitude to a brave soldier, Irving Feinarman.

HONORING DAVID K. ISRAEL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Israel on the occasion of his retirement from teaching. For over 40 years Mr. Israel has served the East Williston School District with passion and commitment. With a degree in English, Mr. Israel graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College, and later received his masters in education from Harvard Graduate School. In 1965 he went to work as an English teacher at the Wheatley School, part of East Williston Union Free School District.

David Israel has been a brilliant asset to his community, to local teachers, to statewide legislators, and to the students he has taught. He became president of the East Williston Teachers' Association in 1980, a position which he holds to this day. Throughout his tenure, he has co-founded the East Williston Teacher's Association Scholarship Foundation, which awards a 4-year scholarship each year to a worthy Wheatley School graduate who intends to become a schoolteacher. Recently he has been elected to the New York State United Teachers as a representative of District 19, comprising the northwestern portion of Nassau County. Not only has Mr. Israel been a valuable member of his community, but he has been a great friend to myself and my staff with his guidance and advice.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children, and our community and our Nation are enhanced by the contributions of passionate and committed teachers like David Israel.

HONORING ROBERT LYNCH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor one of my constituents, Robert P. Lynch, for his 65 years of service and commitment to the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Lynch joined the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department in May 1942. Since then, he has served in every appointed and elected position in the fire department, including President, member of the Board of Directors, and Fire Chief, with over 15 years as Assistant Chief for Rescue. He has served as a Delegate or Alternate to the Maryland State Fireman's Association for an astonishing 52 years. Mr. Lynch has served his community at the county, state and national levels for scores of years and served as a Delegate to the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association. He taught emergency care for nearly 20 years and continues to serve on committees and workgroups, playing an active role, attending nearly every function, and participating in every company meeting.

Mr. Lynch retired from the United States Justice Department, where he served since 1941. He earned the American Legion's Citation for Meritorious Service. He was a devoted

husband to Margaret, who was also active in the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department, until her recent death.

Thanks to the tireless and dedicated efforts of Robert P. Lynch, our community is a safer place to live and work. Mr. Lynch is an extraordinary and unselfish American and an inspiration to us all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Lynch for his outstanding contributions to the people of the State of Maryland.

HONORING THE 2007 NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS: THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY OWLS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the pride and excitement that I rise today to join our community and the State of Connecticut in congratulating this year's NCAA Division II Women's National Basketball Champions, the Southern Connecticut State University Owls. Led by coach Joe Frager and the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, Kate Lynch, the Owls earned the national title after a 61-45 win over previously undefeated Florida Gulf Coast—making the victory that much more thrilling.

Unlike the Division I tournament, where teams are seen from coast to coast throughout the season and information on the strengths and challenges of each team are well documented, the Owls of Southern Connecticut State University began their journey with little knowledge about any of the opposing teams. They did not waiver from the teamwork that brought them to the tournament. Navigating this uncharted territory with the trust they built throughout the season and an indomitable spirit, the Owls steadily moved through the tournament. With four teammates posting double figures in the final game against Florida Gulf Coast, the Owls cruised to a blow-out victory and proudly brought the championship trophy home, where they were greeted with a confetti-strewn welcome.

The people of Connecticut are tremendously proud of the Owls, who have set an example for us all with their teamwork and standard for perfection. This victory was a team effort—because of their hard work, absolute determination and a commitment to teamwork on and off the court, these talented young women have earned the title champions. Their outstanding success and unbridled enthusiasm for the game will certainly be remembered, serving as an inspiration for future players.

It is with my heartfelt congratulations that I stand today to honor the women of the Southern Connecticut State University basketball team on this outstanding victory. They played hard, they played smart, and they have made us all proud. Go Owls!

HONORING DANIEL HAHN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Daniel Hahn, in celebration of his over fifty years of federal service.

Daniel Hahn, a Tool Room Mechanic at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland, often tells people he feels like he's been at the Coast Guard Yard his whole life. Except for a few years while he served in the United States Marine Corps, he has spent his whole life at the Yard. In 1933, Daniel Hahn was born in a brown shingle house just outside the Coast Guard Yard's main entrance. His father, Louis, a 30-year Coast Guard Yard veteran, met his mother Elizabeth through a co-worker at the shipyard. Five of his uncles in the Hahn family also devoted their federal careers to the Coast Guard Yard. When Daniel was 3 years old, he and his family attended the Yard's Christmas Party, held in the on-base movie theater. That memorable afternoon, Daniel won a handmade wooden rocking horse—a now cherished possession that he keeps to this day. Not only did Daniel enjoy the rocking horse he won at the Coast Guard Yard, but his 3 children, 13 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren have also enjoyed many hours of play on the Coast Guard Yard holiday prize from 1936.

While attending Glen Burnie High School, Daniel worked the summer of 1951 at the Coast Guard Yard. He graduated the following year and joined the United States Marine Corps. However, within 3 years he returned to the Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay and after a brief period of outside employment, has worked at the Coast Guard Yard ever since.

Most of Daniel Hahn's federal career at the Curtis Bay shipyard was as an electrician in the Electric Shop. Since 1990, he has worked in the Yard's Central Tool Room as a Tool Room Mechanic. On April 5, 2007, the United States Coast Guard will extend honors to Mr. Hahn in recognition of his 50 years of dedicated service. He is 1 of only 4 current Coast Guard civilian employees who have attained their Golden Anniversary with the federal government. Mr. Hahn plans to continue his work at the Coast Guard Yard beyond his 50th anniversary. Four months after this unique career achievement, Daniel Hahn will celebrate another milestone in life. He and his wife, Thelma, will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary on August 30, 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Daniel Hahn. He is an outstanding and dedicated employee at the Coast Guard's Curtis Bay Shipyard. Through his tireless efforts in over 50 years of public service, he has shown a unique and committed work ethic that few can emulate. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty in his devotion to the United States Coast Guard and the United States of America.

A TRIBUTE TO LT. COLONEL JOHN MULZAC

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, constituent and all around great guy, Lt. Colonel John Mulzac. Colonel Mulzac, or Daddy John as he is affectionately called, is an original Tuskegee Airman. He is an original member of the very first group of African-American World War II fighter pilots of the "99th Pursuit Squadron," later incorporated into the "332nd Fighter Group" and finally the "477th Bomber Group."

After fighting in World War II, Daddy John went on to fly in the Korean War and later the Vietnam War. He was then a member of the Air Force Reserve and then the New York State Air National Guard. Overall, Daddy John has logged more than 15,000 flying hours for the United States Air Force serving from 1942 to 1983. In addition to his service with the U.S. Air Force, Daddy John worked for 20 years as a New York City firefighter. His son Robert Mulzac is continuing the family legacy and is currently a Lieutenant in New York City's Fire Department.

In 1970, Daddy John left the New York City Fire Department and became a member of the First Group of U.S. Sky Marshals Flying World with several airlines including TWA. He continued his career as a Sky Marshal through 1972 training other Sky Marshals in Washington, DC.

Following 21 years of service as a United States Customs Inspector for New York Kennedy Airport's Area Inspection and Control Division, Daddy John retired.

Born on October 11, 1923 in Baltimore, Maryland, Daddy John spent his childhood in Bedford-Stuyvesant, where he now resides with his wife of 61 years, Beatrice. They have been blessed with 8 children, 24 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. It was his wife Beatrice who pinned on Daddy John's pilots wings upon his graduation from Tuskegee Institute in 1944.

Daddy John now spends most of his time in real estate and on the computer emailing his 6 grandchildren, who are enrolled in colleges throughout the country.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Lt. Colonel John Mulzac for his years of service and his invaluable contributions to our country. He is a true leader among men.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a remarkable man, Lt. Colonel John Mulzac.

COMMENDING CAROLINE HAMILTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Caroline Hamilton of Lewisville High School for her recognition as a 2007 Presidential Scholar.

The Presidential Scholar Commission honors up to 121 graduating seniors each year for

outstanding academic achievement. This prestigious award is one of our nation's highest for high school students. Caroline is being honored as a Presidential Scholar for exceptional performance on the SAT. She earned a perfect score of 2400.

At Lewisville High School, Caroline is 2nd in her class and a leader in the band, as well as a member of National Honors Society and various other organizations. Outside of school, she is a member of our Congressional Youth Advisory Council and has received many well deserved accolades in Lewisville and Denton County.

Caroline is a notable example of how the education system in Texas is committed to fostering growth in students and giving them the skills they need to achieve. Congratulations to Caroline, her family, and Lewisville High School for this outstanding achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICIA
CICHOWICZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor of Patricia Cichowicz for her unflagging dedication to serving Northeast Ohio veterans.

Born to Emmett and Ann Holleran, Patricia excelled at school and developed a deep consideration for the most vulnerable in our midst. During her undergraduate and graduate studies, Patricia taught elementary school at St. Stanislaus and St. Vincent de Paul. After graduation, her devotion to our community's children continued as she taught special education at St. Thomas More.

Eager to spread her generosity to other members of the community, Patricia sought opportunities to serve other vulnerable populations. Her search brought her to cross paths with Martin Virsis and Joe Paul, two men on similar journeys to serve the community. They began Mobil Martin, an ambulette business that transports disabled veterans around the community. Since 1996, when Mobil Martin comprised three vans and a dining room of office, they have been a vital resource for Cleveland's veteran community.

Despite the sacrifices that veterans make in service to their country, once they leave active duty their efforts can go unrecognized. Patricia and everyone at Mobil Martin recognized the injustice inherent in the treatment of veterans, and set to ensure they have the resources to meet their needs. Since Mobil Martin's inception, Patricia's dedication has been evident in everything she has done, from helping the organization in its infancy, to ensuring all the veterans had shoes or lap blankets.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Patricia Cichowicz for all her contributions to the Cleveland community. May her commitment to veterans serve as an example for us all, that we may repay their service with our own compassion.

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF
CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of César Chávez, not only because he was one of the great leaders of our country, but also because he was my friend. César was a man of courage, faith, and love who shared his strength with thousands and inspired millions of Americans.

To know César was to stand in awe of the enormous task he set for himself and the great moral leadership he gave to the campaign to challenge injustice and achieve peaceful change. His life, his cause, and his commitment have been and remain an inspiration to me.

His struggle for oppressed farmworkers fired our conscience. He insisted that this Nation acknowledge that every human being, regardless of origin, is of worth and is entitled to reach for a better tomorrow.

What made César Chávez stand out was that he lived the principles he preached: truth and courage. He knew what it was like to be treated without respect, and to work all day, everyday, with little to show for it. A lesser man may have burned up with anger, but Chávez burned with a love of justice and hope for a brighter future.

César's struggle for justice is far from over and we must continue to help others help themselves.

In Congress, we hold the power to create change. The Agricultural Jobs, Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act of 2007 would bring major improvements to the lives of farmworkers in America. This bill would create a path for eligible undocumented farmworkers to apply for temporary immigration status or permanent residency based on their work experience. It would also preserve and enhance key labor protections for guestworkers.

Like Chávez, I believe there's nothing more wasteful than leaving a child with no good choices after graduation, and nothing more un-American than charging children with the offenses of their parents. With César in mind, I introduced the Dream Act, a bill that helps undocumented students realize their dream of going to college and becoming permanent legal members of the communities they've always called home.

César helped us see through the eyes of farmworkers—and what they saw was a dark and hopeless world. But under his leadership, they saw a new world, one of strength and hope, united against poverty and exploitation. Under UFW contracts, they won higher pay and for the first time—health coverage and pension benefits.

We will remember César's fight and never forget what he taught us—that we will succeed—that we will protect the gains that were so hard to win—that we will never give up.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I was unable to record my rollcall votes Nos. 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on: roll No. 190, roll No. 191, roll No. 192, roll No. 193, roll No. 194, roll No. 195, roll No. 198, roll No. 199, and roll No. 201.

Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on: roll No. 196, roll No. 197, and roll No. 200.

HONORING DR. CHRISTOPHER
COPPOLA AS HE IS HONORED
WITH THE SAINT FRANCIS XA-
VIER AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Dr. Christopher Coppola as he is honored by his alma mater, Xavier High School, with their distinguished Saint Francis Xavier Award. This prestigious award recognizes those who have demonstrated outstanding character and leadership—qualities which are at the core of an Xavier education.

Chris has achieved many great accomplishments throughout his life. He is a loving husband and father, dedicated pediatric surgeon, and proud member of the United States Air Force. It was just last year that Chris, a member of the 859th Surgical Operations Squadron, was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his 4 month tour, Chris fought to save the lives of hundreds—American and Iraqi alike. It was from his experiences there that he recently published the book, "Made a Difference for That One: A Surgeon's Letters Home From Iraq."

As a doctor and surgeon, Chris has witnessed a myriad of incidents and battled to save the lives of countless patients. Even with all of his experience, Chris was unsure of what he might find waiting for him in Iraq. He began writing to his wife, Meredith, and family as a way to purge the horrific scenes he saw day in and day out. Chris wrote about every aspect of the war—from what he was eating to descriptions of the patients he was treating. One of the most telling letters described his experience with two young girls whose home had been fire bombed. Both burned badly, Chris and the surgical team fought to save them—unfortunately they lost one. In a twist of fate, Chris also saved the life of a man whom he later discovered was responsible for the bombing of the girls' home.

Meredith saved all of Chris's letters, often sharing them with their three sons and other family members. Chris is one of my cousins and I received a package from his parents containing some of his letters. I was touched, not only by his description of his experience, but by the dedication and commitment he showed to his own mission. I was proud to

discover that, upon his return home, Chris and Meredith decided to publish this poignant collection of letters and use the book as a means to further support members of our military and their families.

All of the proceeds from the sales of "Made a Difference" will be donated to the Fisher House Foundation, an organization which supports America's military and their families in times of need. Because members of the military and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times—during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

As a husband, father, doctor, surgeon, and Air Force Major, Chris has touched countless lives—exemplifying the very spirit of Xavier's educational mission and I cannot think of a more fitting recognition than the Saint Francis Xavier Award. It is with great pride that I rise today to join all of those gathered to join his wife, Meredith, his parents, Dr. Paul and Eileen Coppola, family, friends, and Xavier High School in congratulating Dr. Christopher Coppola on this very special occasion.

A TRIBUTE TO OLANIKE T. ALABI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Olanike T. Alabi, who is the proud daughter of immigrants who came to the United States several decades ago. She is a product of the New York City Public School system, graduating from Midwood High School. She also attended Brooklyn College's prominent Medical Science Institute. She later received her bachelor of arts degree from Temple University, where she carried a double major and a minor. In 1999, she was accepted to the prestigious University of London in Great Britain, where she pursued a master of arts degree.

Olanike Alabi is currently employed by Local 1199 of the SEIU United Healthcare Workers East as an assistant to the president. There, she also participates in a voluntary voter-registration program as well as political campaign events.

Ms. Alabi has received certificates and awards from such organizations as the Family and Support Resources Group; the Training and Employment Council (TEC) Brooklyn; the Access Fund, an organization dedicated to providing scholarships for students attending institutions of higher learning; a Great Force Partner Award from former Congressman Major Owens; a Woman of the Year Award from State Senator John Sampson; and I have presented Ms. Alabi with a Community Service Award for her outstanding work in the community.

Additionally, she has established herself as a fighter for justice. In June of 2003, after being fired from her job as the District Manager for CB No. 2, she filed an Article 78 proceeding at the Kings County Supreme Court and was granted a favorable, unanimous deci-

sion from a panel of judges at the Appellate Division, 2nd Department in April of 2005. Her lawsuit resulted in her reinstatement with compensation and the City of New York taking proper procedures for terminating a community board employee. In June of 2004, she filed a New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) proceeding against a Brooklyn-based property owner and was successful in the venture in March of 2005.

She continues to be featured as a public speaker at events celebrating women's history, school graduations, chemical dependency programs, and college fairs, and as a moderator for political debates, some of which were most recently aired on Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN). She was recently elected as the state committeewomen (district leader) of the 57th A.D.

Finally, her primary interests include public service, international affairs, labor, industrial relations and education. She enjoys reading, writing and traveling. Her church, organizational board and memberships include: Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, Board for the Education of People of African Ancestry, the Community Advisory Board of the Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center, League of Women Voters, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Church Women United, Inc., and a host of other local and civic organizations.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Alabi and all of her hard work and the precedents she has set.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Olanike T. Alabi.

IN REFERENCE TO THE COOPER RIVER 10K BRIDGE RUN

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Michael L. Drozd of Hillsborough, New Jersey. He is dedicating his time and efforts to an important cause. On March 31, Michael will be running in the Cooper River 10K Bridge Run to support the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.

This fund provides financial assistance to Marines in combat and training and to their families. Since its inception in May 2004 through the end of last year, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund has provided more than \$8 million to our wounded heroes.

At 23 years old, Michael has served in the Army, Navy, and the Marines. Michael is a senior First Classman who will be commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps when he graduates from the Citadel in May. He is the only Marine representative Cadet from New Jersey participating in the run and will be running in battle dress uniform, combat boots, and wearing a 50-pound rucksack.

I'd like to commend Michael not only for his selflessness and service to our country but also for his commitment and dedication to such a worthy cause. It is truly inspiring to see a young person like Michael give so much of their time and energy to help others in need.

HONORING GENERAL AND MRS.
MICHAEL L. OATES

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to honor the service of BG Michael L. Oates as he leaves the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, and the Fort Campbell community. He has been selected for promotion to Major General and will soon take on even greater challenges and responsibilities as he assumes command of the 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, in Fort Drum, NY. This new assignment is further evidence that General Oates is among the most capable and trusted officers in our Army today.

In early 2005, General Oates was at the forefront as the Screaming Eagles returned to Iraq, taking control of four volatile provinces. The Division would later gain responsibility for training Iraqi forces in two additional provinces and would participate in security operations in Baghdad itself. The 101st was given a series of difficult missions, and performed each of them well.

General Oates was also instrumental to the continuing transformation of Fort Campbell. Soldiers returning from service in Iraq were greeted by new training facilities, new infrastructure, new barracks, and first-class housing for their families.

A deployment leaves behind thousands of family members who must daily confront the stress and hardship of having a loved one at war. Barbara Oates has been a cornerstone of Fort Campbell's efforts to take care of these families. I have great admiration for her leadership and value her friendship.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking General and Mrs. Oates for their extraordinary service to the Army, the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, and the Clarksville and Montgomery County communities. We will miss them, and we wish them the best of luck in their next assignment.

SUPPORTING H.R. 1132

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among women and the leading cause of cancer death among women under the age of 40. Early detection and education are key to winning this battle. It is imperative that we reauthorize the National Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Act, H.R. 1132, so that all women are given access to free and low-cost breast and cervical screenings. No woman should be denied these lifesaving screenings simply because she cannot afford them. Further, all women should be made aware of the benefits of each screening and the risks of these cancers through public education programs.

This issue is very important within my District of Marin and Sonoma Counties in California, and especially so in Marin County because it has the highest rate of breast cancer

in the country. Among white women, aged 45 to 64, the breast cancer rate in Marin has increased 72 percent in the last decade. Marin County's rates are approximately 40 percent higher than the national average and about 30 percent higher than the rest of the Bay Area. This is why early detection and education in women of all ages is so important.

In addition to this important legislation, we need to do more to prevent breast cancer deaths in women under the age of 40. Approximately 11,000 women under the age of 40 will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, of which nearly 1,300 will die. That's why I introduced the Annie Fox Act, H.R. 715, named after a young woman in my district who was diagnosed with breast cancer and died at the age of 35. This bill will authorize research into the causes of breast cancer in younger women and educate them about the risks of breast cancer.

It is important that we not only continue to fund preventative screenings, education and research for women over the ages of 45, but that we also do so for our younger women so that they may live long, healthy lives.

I applaud the passage of this important legislation and look forward to working with my colleagues to pass H.R. 715, the Annie Fox Act.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GARFIELD MASONIC LODGE

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the 125th anniversary of the Garfield Masonic Lodge in Dubois, Pennsylvania. Established in 1882, the Garfield Lodge has selflessly served the DuBois community with high distinction for 125 years.

I commend the Freemasons for their work and for instilling in its members the virtues of charity, benevolence, brotherly love, and practicing the moral principles of life. Again, I extend my best wishes to the Garfield Lodge and to all of the individuals that continue its good work, as they celebrate 125 years of service in my district on May 4, 2007.

IN TRIBUTE TO MAJOR EUGENE BARLOW ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize MAJ Eugene Barlow for his 23 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he serves as the Chief, Air Force Congressional Fellows Branch, Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison with, additional duties as a White House Social Aide.

In June 1984, Major Barlow started his outstanding career as an enlisted Information Manager. He was selected for promotion to senior airman below-the-zone and later selected for promotion to staff sergeant under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. After assignments in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison Directorate, Major Barlow was selected to attend Officer Training School. He was commissioned in 1996 and assigned to Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, as the Chief of Customer Support.

In August 1998, Major Barlow was selected for assignment to Kadena Air Base, Japan, where he served as Squadron Section Commander in the 67th Fighter Squadron. Before being handpicked for his current assignment, Major Barlow was assigned to his alma mater, the University of Maryland, as an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to MAJ Eugene Barlow for his outstanding service to both the Legislative and Executive Branches and our United States Air Force. We wish him the best as he transitions into a new career. Major Barlow is a true professional and a credit to himself and the United States Air Force.

CELEBRATING THE 136TH ANNIVERSARY OF KERNERSVILLE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the town of Kernersville, NC, which will celebrate its 136th anniversary this Saturday, March 31.

Kernersville is a town with a rich heritage dating back hundreds of years. Known as Kerner's Crossroads in the mid-1800s, the town of Kernersville was officially incorporated on March 31, 1871. It had a small but respectable population of 147. Today, about 20,000 call Kernersville their home in the heart of North Carolina's Triad region.

The town has experienced dramatic growth in recent years as it transitions from what was once a rural community to a town making its mark in the economically vibrant Triad area. In the midst of this transition, Kernersville has worked to preserve its unique small-town character and historic architecture.

One of the most notable relics of Kernersville's historic flavor is an exceptional home called Korner's Folly. Some people have called it the strangest house ever built. Others have said it looks more like a small castle straight from the heart of Germany than a home built in the heart of North Carolina. But regardless, today it is a historic museum and serves to illustrate the unique place Kernersville holds in the Triad region.

I applaud the vision of Kernersville's citizens to pursue commonsense growth policies without sacrificing the essence of what makes Kernersville Kernersville. Their efforts will ensure that this great town celebrates many more anniversaries, each one a tribute to an attractive community that offers a small town atmosphere with the benefits of a community nestled in the Triad.

TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE'S SAN ANTONIO MUSEO ALAMEDA

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Texas's 20th Congressional District, it is my honor to welcome the Smithsonian Institution to San Antonio as it officially launches its first formal affiliate, the Museo Alameda, from April 12 to 15, 2007. The National Center for Latino Arts and Culture is the only organization in the country that maintains formal partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts—important milestones in the development and appreciation of the diversity of the United States of America. Through its programming, the Museo will showcase stories of the Latino experience through art, history and culture.

The 4 days of opening festivities will begin with Tito Puente, Jr.'s Orchestra, the Latino Giants of Jazz, at the Gala Pachanga in Historic Market Square. It continues with John Quiñones of ABC as master of ceremonies for the opening festivities and concludes with Linda Ronstadt as headliner for Canciones de mi Padre, a concert for the people. I along with the Museo Alameda thank the Ford Motor Company, AT&T, and the Anheuser-Busch Foundation for their commitment and friendship in making the museum a reality.

From its inception as the vision of its founding chairman, Henry R. Muñoz III, to its designation as the first of more than 150 affiliates bridging the Smithsonian Institution across the country, the museum has impacted our country and our historic city. Through the years of planning and development, the unique and vibrant Museo Alameda has captured the imagination and inspired the support of countless admirers. The Nation's families are invited to visit our museum, to be inspired by it, and to appreciate the diversity, contributions and pride which Latinos bring to our Nation's greatness. It is time for these stories to be told.

HONORING JOE HOLLSTEIN

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Hollstein, who is retiring after 28 years of service to the city of Ceres.

Joe Hollstein has admirably served Ceres and its residents since 1979. In most cases, Joe has supervised most of the capital projects that have occurred in Ceres for nearly three decades. Joe was instrumental in getting new wells drilled to increase the water supply and he explored the possibility of tapping into surface water. Joe also increased water storage capacity by having ground water reservoirs constructed which added to the city's firefighting capabilities.

Seeing a need to expand the city's wastewater treatment plant, Joe has worked continually on this project with the latest development to develop a sewer line to Turlock from Ceres.

As a traffic engineer, Joe has always been a valued resource to the community and surrounding areas. He has worked from day one with Cal Trans to widen Whitmore Avenue Overpass and to revise the Mitchell Road interchange. In spite of funding delays, Joe has continued to provide technical expertise on these projects and have kept them as a focal point for the local Council of Governments.

Joe has continued to be responsive to the public and its concerns by hosting public hearings and meetings to allow for public input. It is not unusual for Joe to personally respond to the residents on matters of concern to them.

In addition to public works infrastructure projects, Joe has maintained a vision for acquisition of land for parks and city owned buildings. He worked closely on the design of the public safety building and the new fire stations.

Joe continued to find unique ways to fund the community's growth and needs. He was very proactive in establishing special assessment districts to bring additional funds to the city—the establishment of street lighting and landscape maintenance districts. These districts were established in Ceres at a time when few cities had special district fees.

Outside of city hall, Joe has continued his commitment to the community; Joe has diligently volunteered his time to pruning the beautiful roses at Smyrna Park and to the restoration of the Daniel Whitmore Home.

Throughout his career with the city of Ceres, Joe Hollstein has been a consummate public servant. He has utilized his skills and experience for the betterment of the community. Joe has not limited his work to his own department but worked to provide facts and figures for other city projects.

I am honored to rise today to recognize the work of Joe Hollstein and to honor him for his many years of distinguished service to the Ceres community. I wish him the very best in his retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF THE VETERANS'
CARE ADVOCATE ACT

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will ensure that recovering veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have access to a strong patient advocate should they encounter bureaucratic road blocks to their recovery.

This legislation is in response to the appalling stories that have recently come to light regarding substandard outpatient care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. On March 5, I participated in an oversight hearing at Walter Reed of the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs where we heard from recovering soldiers coping with filthy outpatient living conditions and a needlessly cumbersome bureaucracy.

One of the conclusions I reached from this hearing is that veterans are, in some cases, on their own once they leave the excellent Department of Defense inpatient health care system. These men and women are being forced to navigate an onerous bureaucracy and man-

age their own outpatient care—even after traumatic brain injuries. This is an unacceptable betrayal of the men and women who have so bravely answered the call to duty.

The legislation I am introducing today, The Veterans' Care Advocate Act, would create an ombudsman in each military medical facility to assist in the care and overall well-being of recovering service members. The ombudsman will help patients overcome bureaucratic entanglements and ensure they receive the care they need. If the system breaks down, the ombudsman will go to bat on their behalf and cut through the bureaucracy.

Numerous accounts at Walter Reed describe patients not understanding where to obtain services and assistance and not knowing what services are available to them. The ombudsman will provide a forum for service members and their families to formally appeal to or seek review from the Department of Defense, receive information about services, and obtain help with paperwork.

My bill would also require the Secretary of Defense to effectively advertise the services of the ombudsman so that service members and their families know who to turn to for help with the bureaucracy. Finally, this bill would require regular reports to Congress on the status of the ombudsman program, including a description of the number and location of ombudsman positions established, a description of the services being provided by the ombudsman, an analysis of the effectiveness and timeliness of the services provided, and the adequacy of Federal resources for the ombudsman to carry out its entire mission.

Madam Speaker, I strongly believe that the cost of the war must include the care of the warrior. The Veterans' Care Advocate Act is just one step of many that will be required to ensure that recovering soldiers receive the care they were promised and the care they deserve.

Later today, as part of the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, I will offer an amendment that will improve the medical care case manager and service member advocate provisions in the legislation. The underlying legislation creates two new positions as part of the team of doctors, nurses and staff caring for recovering soldiers: a medical care case manager and a service member advocate.

First, the medical care case manager will assist in understanding the service member's medical status and conduct a review, at a minimum of once a week, of the soldier's medical status to ensure that he or she is receiving the necessary medical care. Second, the service member advocate assists the service member in cutting through the bureaucratic red tape and looking out for the service member's overall welfare and quality of life.

My amendment requires that the Secretary of Defense conduct outreach to all service members and their families, advising them that the medical care case manager and service member advocate positions are there to help. The Secretary must also describe the nature of their services and how they can be contacted. The purpose of my amendment is to help assure that recovering members of our military are made aware of the resources available to them.

Furthermore, the amendment ensures that the medical case manager and service member advocate have the resources they need to expeditiously carry out the responsibilities and duties of their position.

I am pleased that the Wounded Warriors bill takes a number of important steps to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for our soldiers. Combined with the hospital-based ombudsman created by my bill, the creation of these two positions will help ensure that our soldiers get the quality care they deserve.

A TRIBUTE TO PETRUCCI E.
HARRIS, MSW, LCSW, DCSW

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Petrucci E. Harris. Petrucci Harris was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and is the younger of two daughters born to Timothy and Bessie Hardy. Her family moved to Long Island, New York, while she was still a child. After graduating from public school in New York, she attended Morgan State University in her hometown of Baltimore.

Ms. Harris' first professional job was with the Suffolk County Head Start Program as a teacher, then a center director and later the county program coordinator. It was the experience of working with economically disadvantaged preschool aged children and their families which provided her with the motivation to return to school.

Ms. Harris was granted a fellowship by the National Institutes of Health which assisted her in earning a Masters of Social Work from the State University of New York's School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook. She also studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Urban Health Planning; Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy; New York University Ehrenkranz School of Social Work Post Masters Certificate Program; and the Mind/Body Institute of Harvard Medical School's Continuing Education Program.

Petrucci Harris has been employed in various areas of mental and behavioral health throughout her career. This includes the University of Louisville's Medical School Department of Psychiatry; Bingham Child Guidance Clinic; and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine where she was an adjunct faculty member as well as Coordinator of Social Work Services for many years. She worked on many projects for the inclusion of cultural content into the curriculum for immigrant psychiatric residents.

Ms. Harris served as a field instructor for graduate students at the New York University Ehrenkranz School of Social Work for several years. She was also an adjunct professor and faculty advisor for students at the NYU Wagner College where she taught the ethno cultural issues in social work practice course. She is currently a field instructor for Rutgers University's School of Social Work.

Ms. Harris is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, Academy of Certified Social Workers, Diplomat in Clinical Social Work, and a Certified Supervisor of Clinical Social Work. Her commitment to improving the general quality of life through service to others is carried out in her pledge to community service as a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Ms. Harris lives in Summit, New Jersey. She is the mother of three adult children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize my fellow social worker for all of her hard work and outstanding achievements.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Petrucci E. Harris.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER DOUG BYRNE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDI

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TANCREDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen policeman from Colorado, Doug Byrne.

Officer Byrne was killed earlier this week when he swerved to avoid a vehicle which stopped directly in front of him. At the time he was rushing to the aid of an individual in a life threatening medical emergency. He was just 37 years old.

Madam Speaker, Officer Byrne has a long and distinguished record of public service. Before becoming a police officer he was a member of the United States Marine Corps and a veteran of the first gulf war. Prior to working for the Aurora Police Department Doug Byrne was an officer for the Glendale Police Department for 6 years. He was awarded the Medal of Valor for rescuing several people from an apartment fire in 2003. After becoming an Aurora policeman, he was entrusted with the important task of training other officers.

Officer Byrne was a graduate of Gateway High School.

Madam Speaker, all Coloradans mourn the loss of such a good person and dedicated public servant. The loss of Officer Doug Byrne will be felt not only by those who knew and loved him, but the community as a whole.

RECOGNIZING TRENT HARRISON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trent Harrison, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 692, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trent has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trent has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trent Harrison for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRE SPRINKLER INCENTIVE ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act, which will create expedited tax incentives for property owners to install automatic fire sprinkler systems.

Four years ago tragedy struck Rhode Island when a fire tore through the Station nightclub in West Warwick. That fire, which killed 100 people and injured 200 more, could have been prevented if fire sprinklers had been installed throughout the building. We all learned a very hard lesson on the importance of installing fire protection equipment—in our homes, our workplaces, our schools and recreational buildings. But with a renewed focus on installing fire sprinklers and other safety devices, we truly can prevent a tragedy like the one in West Warwick from ever occurring again.

The legislation I am introducing today will amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide an incentive to business owners for retrofitting existing buildings with life-saving sprinklers. Specifically, this legislation will reduce the tax depreciation time for retrofitting sprinklers in nonresidential real property from 39 years to only five.

Since January of this year 157 have died nationwide in fires where three or more people were killed, with over 50 percent of the fatalities being children. This is simply an unacceptable reality that could easily be changed with the installation of simple, lifesaving technology. The National Fire Protection Association has no record of a fire killing more than two people in a public assembly, educational, institutional or residential building with a complete and fully operational automatic fire sprinkler system.

Unfortunately, due to the high cost of installing these safety measures, property owners have faced tremendous financial burdens when considering the addition of sprinkler systems. Some states, including my home state of Rhode Island, have passed stricter fire codes requiring the installation of more sprinklers and alarms. While I applaud these efforts, the unfortunate reality is that many business owners simply cannot afford to comply. That is why my legislation is designed to provide a meaningful financial incentive for property owners, reducing any cost burdens they may incur, while significantly improving public safety throughout our country.

The need for enhanced fire safety incentives is certainly not new. In fact, similar legislation was introduced in both the 108th and 109th Congresses, where it garnered over 140 co-sponsors each time. Together, we can make a tremendous impact by providing a financial incentive to install sprinklers in every office, restaurant, and nightclub in the country. It is my strong hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting and quickly passing this important measure, before tragedy strikes another community.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VET- ERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ AC- COUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House takes up the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act, a bill that ensures that our troops are properly trained and equipped, that sets strong standards for accountability in Iraq, and that sets a date certain for the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq.

Our servicemen and women have performed courageously in Iraq, and we are deeply grateful for their sacrifice and unflagging commitment. They have served our Nation admirably, despite inadequate planning and incompetent management by this administration. There is nothing more we could ask of them. They have risen to every challenge, and carried out their mission faithfully, in the highest traditions of military service.

This bill honors that service, by ensuring that our men and women in uniform are properly equipped, and properly trained, before they are deployed to combat duty. It sets strong readiness standards, to protect our troops by requiring that their deployment is consistent with Department of Defense guidelines for equipment and training, and that they are fully "mission-capable." It also ensures that they do not serve longer deployments than is the tradition of their service—while including provisions that grant flexibility in the case of a real national-security need.

The Bush administration has extended troop stays, brought back our troops for tour after tour, time and again. But the time for more tours, and more troops, and more war, is finished.

It is time to bring our troops home.

While I'd like to see our troops begin an immediate withdrawal from Iraq, concluding by the end of the year, I have become convinced that the bill before us is the best we can achieve. I commend Speaker PELOSI, for her hard work to build consensus in this House for a new direction in Iraq, and for her efforts to bring our troops home.

This bill is a historic step in the right direction in that it sets a date-certain for the withdrawal of troops. After four years of war in Iraq, it is evident that this conflict is not amenable to a military resolution. Rather, we must withdraw, and engage Iraq and its neighbors in the region in a diplomatic initiative, rather than a military conflict. I also believe we must give the Iraqi people an incentive to take responsibility for their own security, to disarm the militias and reduce sectarian violence. This bill gives them that incentive in no uncertain terms.

Under this bill Iraq, and the Bush administration, must begin to show real progress, and will be held accountable by this Congress for that progress. The bill requires the President to certify that the Iraqi government is meeting the political and military benchmarks he laid out in January, and hold the Iraqis accountable for making progress towards those benchmarks. The bill offered by this Democratic Congress requires the Iraqi government

to take steps to disarm the militias, pursue extremist groups, and start delivering Iraqi Security Forces to protect Baghdad. It requires the Iraqi government to fairly share oil revenues, ensure that elections are free and fair, and begin to responsibly allocate and spend Iraqi government funds to rebuild the nation of Iraq.

If the Iraqi government does not take action to disarm the militias, and has not taken steps towards political reconciliation and responsibility for its own security by July of this year, Americans will begin to come home, and will be out of Iraq within 180 days. Most importantly, under this bill, American combat troops will begin to leave Iraq by March 2008, and will be out of Iraq by August of 2008.

This is not the bill that many of us want, but it is the best bill we are likely to get, and I am going to support it.

It is not a perfect bill. But it is a step in the right direction—towards ending the war. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill, and for a timeline for withdrawal from Iraq. This war has cost us 3,225 American lives to date and almost half a trillion dollars. It's time for a new direction. It's time for our troops to come home.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GRANVILLE
COGGS, MEMBER OF THE UNITED
STATES ARMY AIR CORPS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Granville Coggs, member of the United States Army Air Corps, also known as the Tuskegee Airmen, on the occasion that the leadership of the United States Congress and the President of the United States presents to him the Congressional Gold Medal.

The prestige and honor exemplified by this medal could not be more appropriate for a man of Dr. Coggs's stature. As a nation, we will forever be grateful for his service to our country from 1943 to 1946 as a member of the segregated Black United States Army Air Corps. It was here that Dr. Coggs was a member of the historic World War II fighter group known as the Tuskegee Airmen and earned military badges for aerial gunner, aerial bombardier and multi-engine pilot.

Upon completion of his service, Dr. Coggs received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska in June of 1949. In June of 1953, he received his M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School, and has since had a celebrated career in medicine of the highest merit.

Dr. Coggs's accomplishments are worthy of the honor represented by the Congressional Gold Medal and of equal importance, they are worthy of the praise and recognition of the American people. The role he has played in our country's history during one of its most difficult and trying times will never be forgotten. His desire to serve the country that he loves so dearly, and to do so at a time when many in our country doubted the skill, intelligence, and patriotism of our African-American citizens, personifies the words bravery, valor, and courage.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Granville Coggs and his

fellow Tuskegee Airmen today as they receive the highly celebrated Congressional Gold Medal. We will forever be grateful to the role they have played in shaping our nation's history and for playing an integral role in the fight for social justice and racial equality in our Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW MIDDLE
EAST INITIATIVE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues information on a new initiative for the Middle East that will combine economics and faith. Ambassador Dennis Ross, of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and former presidential negotiator in the Middle East, and Ambassador Tony Hall, who served in Congress from 1979 to 2002, will be key players in the initiative. The initiative will be coordinated by the Center for the Study of the Presidency and be supported by a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

I submit for the RECORD my remarks, as well as those of Ambassador Tony Hall, at a press conference on March 22 at which this initiative was announced.

FRANK WOLF'S REMARKS BEFORE THE MARCH
22, 2007 PRESS CONFERENCE ON NEW MIDDLE
EAST INITIATIVE

Thank you for coming today. I also want to thank and recognize Ambassador David Abshire and Ambassador Tony Hall for joining me today. Both will be speaking in a few minutes. I have known and worked with both David and Tony for a number of years and have great respect for them. And I can honestly say that Tony was my best friend in Congress and remains my best friend today.

Today we are here to announce the launching of a new initiative in the Middle East that will combine economics and faith. It will be coordinated by the Center for the Study of the Presidency and be supported by a grant from USAID. We are deeply concerned that time is running out to find a peaceful solution to the issues that separate the people in the land so many call holy.

In the Middle East, religion plays such an important role in people's lives. If you're Jewish, you have the Western Wall. If you're Christian, you have the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. If you're Muslim, you have the Dome of the Rock. We cannot work toward peace in the Middle East without taking into account the religious roots of its people.

The U.S. government doesn't have the capacity to deal with this reality in the lives of those who live in that region. That is why I have put together an initiative that includes the faith component. The faith component of this initiative will be led by former Congressman Tony Hall. His depth of faith and experience in building bridges between people is critical to this initiative.

The economic development component will be led by Ambassador Dennis Ross. Dennis is a seasoned diplomat who has maintained a significant role in shaping U.S. involvement in the Middle East peace process for many years.

Dr. Bob Cooley, president emeritus of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, recently provided me some insightful observations about the faith dynamics in the Middle East. He has worked with Palestinian Muslims,

Palestinian Christians, and Israelis during his 48 years of pursuing Hebrew Studies and Syro-Palestinian Archeology.

He points out that the three major religious groups in the land are "all Sons of Abraham, who share a common understood relationship that serves as a basis for living together in harmony today." It is largely the past 50 years of failed politics that have undermined communal harmony in the region and modified the relationships between these groups. A complete copy of Dr. Cooley's remarks about the relationships between these groups is attached to my statement.

The faith dynamic in the region is critical to forming the most effective approach to the political situation. If you buy a young plant, you can't place it in the ground without tilling the soil first. The purpose of this initiative isn't to deal with boundaries, or questions of status. It is to build relationships; to prepare the soil in preparation for the diplomatic efforts of Secretary Rice and others to find a political solution for the region.

Psalm 122:6 tells us to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem." I do this every day. I believe that this initiative will bring the people of different faiths together and build bridges between them. Now I am going to turn the program over to Dr. Abshire and then Tony. We will take any questions after both of them speak. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TONY HALL AT
MIDDLE EAST PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH
22, 2007

I am very pleased to be part of this initiative headed by my friend, Frank Wolf, and supported by other members of the Congress and Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice.

As His Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan so clearly spelled out two weeks ago to the Congress, the unresolved conflict between Israel and Palestine has resulted in tremendous pain in Israel, the Palestinian territories and other nations in the Middle East. This problem has fueled additional fires outside of the region that have brought fear, destruction and extremism to many countries and people, including our own. The situation is at such a point that it is no longer only an isolated regional conflict in which we can choose to be involved, it is a problem that directly affects the security of the United States.

I have traveled a number of times to the Middle East, starting in 1979, and most recently having returned from there this past week. We did a lot of listening; and what I have seen and heard leads me to believe that there has not been a more urgent time for peace. There are a lot of people already working on multiple fronts in waging peace, and my role in the coming months will be to support them by fostering additional relationships, understanding, and cooperation among the various communities in the Holy Land.

I want to clarify that my mission is not to distract from the political side of the peace process, but to lay additional groundwork for an eventual political outcome. However, one cannot speak about peace on the political level without taking into account the religious roots of the people involved—especially in the Holy Land.

Our service is to support and encourage the people of faith who bear influence in the region. We are connecting with people of faith because as leaders of these communities they can either encourage the way of compassion, sacrifice, and grace in this process—which is necessary to support a political outcome—or they can incite their people in the hopeless path of the status quo. We want to help the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities who recognize and labor for peace

by practicing the commandment to "Love your neighbor."

The Abrahamic faiths have been in conflict for so long, that most of us have forgotten that at the core of each of them lies that universal commandment: "Love your neighbor." By going back to this fundamental starting point ourselves, and encouraging our friends in the region to do likewise, we believe that we can construct some good will that we hope may help support a political settlement.

We are not under any illusion that we alone can solve the conflict. My good friend Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and other community, political, business and religious leaders are coming together to share in the work of preparing the way for peace in the Holy Land. Together we hope that our combined efforts can, in some small way, assist in paving the way for a just and lasting peace.

It's worth a try.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF PEARL RICHTER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mrs. Pearl Marcus Richter of Toledo, Ohio, on the occasion of her forthcoming 90th birthday. Pearl will be celebrating this milestone event with family members, including two grandchildren, who will be gathering this weekend in the Washington, DC area where Pearl's daughter and son have each settled.

Pearl was born on April 6, 1917, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to immigrant parents (like so many other fine Americans) on that momentous day in history during which Congress declared war against Germany and the United States entered the conflict in Europe that became World War I. Her mother was ill during most of her childhood and Pearl was always a great help in the home. Pearl graduated from Shortridge High School in Indianapolis in 1934 at the age of 17. By then, her mother had passed away, leaving Pearl to be the female head of a household that included her father and one older and one younger brother. In 1940, life changed dramatically for Pearl. She met Morris A. Richter in February, it was love at first sight, and in May they married and moved to Terre Haute, Indiana, where Morris worked.

For nearly 15 months, December 1944–February 1946, Pearl was at home alone to care for a daughter, born in 1940, and a son, born in 1944, while Morris served in the American Area Campaign of the U.S. Navy. Both children share the same birthday, July 18, and Pearl always jokes that it was because her husband was an accountant. In the summer of 1958, the Richter family moved to Toledo, Ohio, where Morris had taken a job with the federal government, and into a house on Cheltenham Road in the Old Orchard district. Daughter Ceceile Kay graduated from the University of Toledo in 1963 and son Sheldon Jay graduated from Ohio State University in 1967. Pearl was at both graduations but unfortunately Morris was not; he had died of a heart attack in October 1961, just weeks after his 46th birthday. Pearl went to work soon afterwards as a sales clerk with Petrie Stores and

had worked her way up to assistant manager before she retired.

Pearl has always been active in her synagogues and taught Sunday School in both Terre Haute and Toledo. In Toledo, she is a member of B'nai Israel Synagogue and its Sisterhood and its Synagogue Organized Afternoon Program. She is also an active member and was an officer for several years in the Friendship Club, one of many activities she enjoys through the Jewish Family Services Senior Adult Center. Pearl lived in Kenwood Gardens for over 35 years and since late 2001 has enjoyed living at Carriage House East where she is regular caller at monthly bingo and a semi-regular in an informal poker club in which she is one of the youngest members. Pearl's favorite activity besides working crossword puzzles is mah jongg, and she plays as frequently as she can. She is a member of the National Mah Jongg League, having joined soon after its inception in 1937, and she is always the first in her groups to learn the rules changes each year.

Even more so than any of the above, her family and friends know Pearl as a favorite baker. Pearl used to bake almost every day and most of this she would give away. Now she has cut her baking back to a few times a month. A visitor to her home is always served a cup of steaming hot coffee or, perhaps, fresh-squeezed lemonade or limeade, and a baked dessert. If something fresh is not on the counter, her visitors need not worry. There are always tins of baked goods in her freezer. Her family has been wishing for some time that Pearl would move to the Washington, DC area where one of the pleasures, besides her company, will be the ritual of opening her freezer to see what baked goods are inside. Pearl has always been generous about sharing her recipes. Family members and close friend Bea Goldman have now sent copies of these recipes to Pearl's daughter, who will be combining them with recipes in her collection and from her memory into a recipe book to be provided to guests after the dinner in honor of Pearl's birthday.

I join with Pearl's family and friends in wishing her a most joyous birthday, spent looking back in fond recollection and looking forward to future years. Congratulations and best wishes!

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP DEPOIAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor an individual whose service to the people of City of Los Angeles is as a model to us all. His dedication, talent, and integrity played a role in building Los Angeles to the cultural and cutting edge city it is today.

Philip Depoian dedicated nearly 34 years to the City of Los Angeles, serving under four Mayors and many city council members. He began his career with the city as Mayor Tom Bradley's first Scheduling Director and thereafter as Special Counsel. Mr. Depoian subsequently became the Intergovernmental Liaison to the Mayor, to the Police Department, and to Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). During his time with the mayor, Mr. Depoian took a

leave of absence to work on the International Presidential Advance Planning for the White House during a portion of the Jimmy Carter Administration.

In 1994, Mr. Depoian was appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley to the position of Deputy Executive Director for the Government and External Affairs of Los Angeles World Airports that includes representation for all four of LAWA's airports: Los Angeles International Airport, Ontario International Airport, Palmdale Regional Airport and Van Nuys Airport. With his extensive knowledge of governmental affairs, legislative analysis, international relations and public policy, he oversaw many divisions at LAWA including Environmental Management, Noise Management, Public Affairs and Rideshare. He also launched the Air Service Marketing Division and developed a multi-faceted approach to market LAWA's regional airports.

Through Mr. Depoian's efforts, LAWA was able to expand its market overseas by creating marketing offices in Tokyo and London. He played a key role in re-establishing passenger service in Mexico and reopening U.S. Customs and Immigration there. It was through Mr. Depoian's leadership that LAWA was able to create sister-airport cooperative agreements with airports in Incheon, South Korea, and Beijing and Guangzhou, China.

Mr. Depoian is retiring to spend more time with his wife, Julie Pastor Depoian and their daughter, Katie. His retirement from city service will leave a great void to all who depended on his sage advice, his tenacity, his charm and intelligence with which he approached all tasks. He has served the city at several capacities and his innovation and expertise has helped Los Angeles keep pace with its mission as an economic hub.

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to express my thanks, and that of a grateful city, to Philip Depoian for his years of dedication to public service. I wish him success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

KATRINA HOUSING TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I'm submitting the CBO cost estimate on H.R. 1562, the Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 23, 2007.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1562, the Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Emily Schlect.

Sincerely,

PETER R. ORSZAG.

Enclosure.

H.R. 1562—Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act

Summary: H.R. 1562 would extend and expand certain tax laws specific to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, which were enacted in the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005. The bill would also raise revenue by changing the collection due process procedures for employment taxes.

The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that enacting H.R. 1562 would de-

crease revenues by \$1 million in 2007 and increase revenues by \$42 million over the 2007–2012 period and by \$4 million over the 2007–2017 period. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 1562 would have discretionary costs of less than \$500,000 in 2007 and 2008, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

JCT has determined that the tax provisions of the bill contain no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in

the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). CBO has determined that the non-tax provisions (section 4) contain no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of the bill over the 2007–2017 period is shown in the following table.

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—													2007–2012	2007–2017
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017				
CHANGES IN REVENUES ¹															
Low-Income Housing Provisions	0	0	–61	–97	–53	–10	0	0	0	0	0	0	–221	–221	
Treatment of Repairs for Bond Purposes	–1	–4	–7	–4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	–16	–16	
Modification of Collection Due Process	0	53	54	28	20	17	20	23	26	0	0	0	172	241	
Corporate Estimated Tax Payments	0	0	0	0	0	107	–107	0	0	0	0	0	107	0	
Total Changes	–1	49	–14	–73	–33	114	–87	23	26	0	0	0	42	4	
On-Budget	–1	6	–58	–96	–49	100	–103	4	5	0	0	0	–97	–191	
Off-Budget	0	43	44	23	16	14	16	19	21	0	0	0	139	195	

¹ Assuming availability of appropriated funds, the cost of the Government Accountability Office report required by the bill would be less than \$500,000.

Note: Numbers may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, JCT assumes that the bill will be enacted by July 1, 2007.

Revenues

The legislation would reduce revenues through two provisions related to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, and it would also raise revenues by changing collection due process procedures for employment tax liabilities and making other changes. All in all, JCT estimates that the bill would increase revenues by \$42 million over the 2007–2012 period and by \$4 million over the 2007–2017 period.

First, H.R. 1562 would decrease revenues by extending and expanding low-income housing credit rules that were enacted in response to damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. Generally, low-income housing credits are subject to a cap. In response to Hurricane Katrina, this ceiling amount was increased for the states affected, for the years 2006 through 2008. This bill would extend the higher cap for two years (through December 31, 2010). It would also make changes to the carryover allocation rules that specifies the time by which the housing must be completed to still qualify for the credit. This provision, JCT estimates, would reduce revenues by \$221 million over the 2009–2012 period.

Second, the bill would reduce revenues by treating certain repairs in the Gulf Opportunity Zone (composed of areas affected by the hurricane) as qualified rehabilitation for purposes of certain bond rules. In general, qualified mortgage bonds are tax-exempt and must be used for new mortgages. Qualified rehabilitation loans, on the other hand, may be used for replacing existing mortgages. Since the hurricane, states in the Gulf Opportunity Zone have been allowed to issue Gulf Opportunity Zone Bonds for construction and rehabilitation of property. This bill would allow loans financed with qualified mortgage bonds and Gulf Opportunity Zone Bonds to be used for existing mortgages, regardless of certain rules in place for normal qualified rehabilitation loans. JCT estimates that this provision would reduce revenues by \$1 million in 2007 and by \$16 million over the 2007–2012 period.

H.R. 1562 would raise revenue by changing collection due process procedures with regards to employment tax liabilities. Currently, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) may seize a taxpayer's property given a federal tax lien. Prior to seizing the property, the IRS must notify taxpayers that they have a right to a collection due process hear-

ing. This bill would enable the IRS to seize property without first having a hearing. JCT estimates that this provision would increase revenues by \$172 million over the 2007–2012 period and by \$241 million over the 2007–2017 period. Of the revenue gain, JCT estimates that a portion would be off-budget—totaling \$195 million over the 2007–2017 period.

Finally, one provision would shift revenues between 2012 and 2013. For corporations with at least \$1 billion in assets in 2012, the bill would increase the portion of corporate estimated tax payments due in July through September of that year. This change would increase revenues by \$107 million in 2012 and decrease revenues by \$107 million in 2013.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

Section 4 would require the Government Accountability Office to report recommendations to the Congress on the use of federal tax incentives provided to state and local governments affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. Based on similar reports, CBO estimates that preparing and distributing the report would cost less than \$500,000 in any one fiscal year.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: JCT has determined that the tax provisions of the bill contain no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the UMRA. CBO has determined that the non-tax provisions (section 4) contain no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimate prepared by: Federal revenues: Emily Schlect. Federal spending: Matthew Pickford. Impact on state, local, and tribal governments: Melissa Merrell. Impact on the private sector: Nabeel Alsalam.

Estimate approved by: G. Thomas Woodward, Assistant Director for Tax Analysis. Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND SONIA
PATRICIA SMITH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Sonia Patricia Smith. Reverend Smith is a woman who has always placed her faith and confidence in the Lord.

For the last 15 years, Reverend Smith has been employed with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York where she has spent most of her time working tirelessly on behalf of her patients. Whether it is working with the elderly or providing nursing support to those infected with HIV, she is committed to ensuring that her patients receive the highest level of care and respect. She believes that as a medical professional it is not only her job only to heal her patients physically, but also emotionally and spiritually. Because of her dedication to her patients, she was promoted to the management level at VNS.

In many ways, Reverend Smith sees the fruits of her labor through her family, whether it is her childhood sweetheart whom she married, Anthony, or her three children. Her eldest son Dr. Oronde Smith is a physician and loving husband to his wife Paula and wonderful father to his daughter Oniya. Reverend Smith's middle son Jonathan earned both his bachelors and masters degrees from Harvard University and is currently a third-year law student at New York University. Reverend Smith's youngest son Matthew is a talented musician and a third-year medical student at Downstate Medical School.

Reverend Smith's work with her daughter-in-law Paula demonstrates the compassion she has for others. Several years ago Paula was interested in entering the nursing profession but did not believe she was qualified and decided to terminate her schooling early. Reverend Smith refused to let her quit and tutored Paula helping her through her courses. Today Paula is a registered nurse as well as a nurse practitioner with an M.S. in nursing. Reverend Smith's example with Paula is not the exception, but rather the rule.

Reverend Smith has assisted countless individuals by providing help and often doing everything within her power to ensure that they achieve their goals. She has a special place in her heart for women and children, and being the first lady of Gethsemane Baptist Church where her husband serves as pastor. She has reached out to many members of the congregation giving them advice and lending a listening ear. She has worked extensively with the children's ministry or her "angels" as she

likes to call them, leading the children's church and vacation bible school.

Another example of Reverend Smith's commitment is demonstrated when she, along with her husband, organized and led a trip to Disney World for nearly 50 children in the church several years ago. Although neither the children nor their families had the financial means to afford the trip, Reverend Smith raised the funds and the support for this excursion.

Reverend Smith has touched countless lives through the work she does, and there is no doubt that she will continue to do so for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize all of the good works of Reverend Sonia Smith and her commitment to the most vulnerable in our society, our elderly and our children.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful for her kindness and compassion.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, you cannot legislate victory in a military conflict—but you can legislate failure. This legislation abandons our troops and sets an arbitrary timetable for our withdrawal.

Although America's commitment in Iraq is not unlimited, this legislation sends the wrong message to our troops. Also, this bill contains unrelated spending such as subsidies for spinach farmers, and payments to citrus and peanut farmers.

I fully support the funding for BRAC and I was disappointed when the majority stripped \$3 billion from the FY07 continuing resolution and replaced it in this legislation.

We have a Commander in Chief, who has replaced the military leadership, from the Secretary of Defense down to the Commanders on the ground. A new military strategy has been developed, based upon a strategy and commitments made by the Iraqi Government. Additional forces are being provided to support the Iraqi forces. This supplemental pulls the rug out from under the feet of our military commanders—and our troops. This legislation does not give the new commanders, the chance to succeed. It imposes restrictions and a deadline for withdrawal.

We've talked about supporting the troops. We need to provide the troops with tools, equipment, and moral support necessary for success. The legislation tells the troops, despite your sacrifices, we will not wait for you to get the job done. It tells our enemies to be patient, you only have to wait until August 2008. It tells our allies that the United States is not committed to peace and stability in the Middle East. I, for one, am opposed to sending that type of message.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN JOHN BRADEMAS

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my distinguished predecessors in representing the District I am now privileged to serve in Congress and to wish him a Happy 80th Birthday.

I speak of Dr. John Brademas of South Bend, Indiana, who for 22 years, from 1959 until 1981, served the then Third District of Indiana in the House of Representatives. While in Congress, John Brademas was a member of the Committee on Education and Labor where he played a leading role in writing most of the Federal legislation enacted during that time concerning schools, colleges and universities; services for the elderly and the disabled; libraries and museums; the arts and the humanities.

During his last four years on Capitol Hill, John Brademas was, by appointment of then Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., House Majority Whip.

PRESIDENT, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

In 1981 John Brademas was named president of New York University, the largest private university in the United States, a position in which he served from 1981 until 1992, when he became president emeritus, his present position.

During that time Dr. Brademas led the transition of NYU from a regional commuter school to a national and international residential research university. In 1984 he initiated a fundraising campaign that produced a total of \$1 billion in ten years. Said the New York Times, "A Decade and a Billion Dollars Put New York University in [the] First Rank." Added Crain's New York Business (August 6, 2001), "John Brademas turned NYU into an Ivy League rival . . ."

In 2005 New York University announced the establishment, in its Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, of the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress. The Center undertakes research, teaching and public outreach activities focused on the role of Congress in making national policy.

In 2006 Dr. Brademas received The John Gardner Spirit Award from Common Cause/New York for "his unparalleled dedication to public service and a stronger democracy through his work in Congress, at New York University and as one of the Nation's leading champions of the arts and education."

In his book, *An Entrepreneurial University* (Tufts University Press), former Tufts Provost Saul Gittleman said, "[T]he trustees at NYU . . . in 1981 found an individual who proved to be nontraditional and transformational. . . . [T]he Brademas presidency became another model for trustees and regents to examine, as he took NYU to a new and competitive eminence in New York City and the Nation. By the time his presidency was over, Columbia University was looking over its shoulder, in no small measure due to John Brademas. He was a potent fundraiser and extraordinary ambassador for the university".

In their book, *Shakespeare. Einstein, and the Bottom Line* (Harvard University Press, 2003), scholars David L. Kirp and Jonathan

Van Antwerpen state, "NYU is the success story in contemporary American higher education".

PRODUCTIVE LEGISLATOR

From 1994 through 2001, Dr. Brademas served, by appointment of President Clinton, as Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, which in 1997 released Creative America, a report to the President on ways of strengthening support, private and public, for these two fields.

Former Chairman of the National Endowment for Democracy, Dr. Brademas was also for 11 years Chairman of the American Ditchley Foundation, which helps organize conferences at Ditchley Park, near Oxford, England.

In Congress, a co-sponsor of the 1965 legislation creating the National Endowments for the Arts (NEA) and the Humanities (NEH), Dr. Brademas for ten years chaired the subcommittee of the House of Representatives with jurisdiction over them.

He was chief House sponsor of the Arts, Humanities and Cultural Affairs Act; Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act; Museum Services Act; Library Services and Construction Act Amendments; National Commission on Libraries and Information Services Act; Education for All Handicapped Children Act; Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education Act; International Education Act; and Environmental Education Act.

He was also a major co-author of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; the Higher Education Acts of 1972 and 1976, which focused on student aid; and chief author of the measures creating the National Institute of Education and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

He was chief House author as well of the Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act of 1974, which assured ownership by the Federal Government of the papers and tapes of the Nixon Presidency.

WIDE-RANGING PRO BONO SERVICE

Dr. Brademas has served on a number of boards and national commissions on subjects ranging from the arts to higher education, foreign policy, jobs and small business, historic documents and records, and science, technology and government.

In 2004 he was elected to the New York State Board of Regents by the New York State Legislature.

He is a founding director of the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe, headquartered in Salonika, Greece. He is also a trustee of Anatolia College, the American College of Thessaloniki.

He currently serves on the boards of the Center for National Policy in Washington, D.C., the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute, InsurBanc, Comfidex Corporation and Society for the Preservation of the Greek Heritage.

He is a member of The Century Association, Committee on Economic Development (CED), Council on Foreign Relations, Council on the United States and Spain, U.S.-Japan Foundation, and the National and International Advisory Councils of Transparency International, the organization that combats corruption in international business transactions.

In 2006 the Committee for Economic Development released a report, Education for Global Leadership: The Importance of International Studies and Foreign Language Education for U.S. Economic and National Security. Dr. Brademas was a co-chair of the CED Subcommittee that produced the report.

He is also Vice Chairman of the Advisory Council of Americans for UNESCO and a member of the American Associates of the Saint Catherine Foundation. He is a trustee of the World Conference of Religions for Peace and member of the Mental Illness Prevention Center Advisory Board of the NYU Medical Center.

He is also a member of the Executive Council of the Cyprus International Initiative for the Environment and Public Health—Harvard School of Public Health.

FORMER CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK

Former Chairman of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Dr. Brademas also served on the boards of Americans for the Arts, The Aspen Institute, Board of Overseers of Harvard, New York Stock Exchange, Rockefeller Foundation and The Trilateral Commission.

He has served as well on the boards of RCA and NBC, Columbia Pictures, Berlitz, Kos Pharmaceuticals, NYNEX, Oxford University Press-USA, Scholastic, Texaco, Loews Corporation and the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation.

In 2004 he was elected to the New York State Board of Regents by the New York State Legislature and served on the Board until 2007.

Dr. Brademas is a Lifetime Trustee of New York University and the University of Notre Dame.

Dr. Brademas is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and served on the Council of the Academy. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Education (USA) and a Corresponding Member of The Academy of Athens.

In 1983, as president of New York University, Dr. Brademas awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree to His Majesty, King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

In 1997, in the presence of His Majesty and Queen Sofia of Spain and the First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Dr. Brademas announced the establishment of the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at New York University. He is President of the Foundation established in Spain to support the Center; His Majesty is Honorary President.

In 1985 Dr. Brademas received the Annual Gold Medal of The Spanish Institute; in 1993 was named a "Friend of Barcelona" by then Mayor Pasqual Maragall; and in 1997 was decorated by the Minister of Education and Culture of Spain with the Gran Cruz de la Orden de Alfonso X el Sabio.

Among the other centers established at NYU during Dr. Brademas' presidency are the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimón, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, The Center for Japan-U.S. Business & Economic Studies and, for the study of Europe, the Remarque Institute.

GRADUATE OF HARVARD, RHODES SCHOLAR AT OXFORD

Born in Mishawaka, Indiana, on March 2, 1927, Dr. Brademas graduated from South Bend Central High School in 1945. After service in the U.S. Navy in 1945–46, in the Naval Officers' Training Program at the University of Mississippi, he was a Veterans National Scholar at Harvard University, from which he graduated with a B.A., magna cum laude, in 1949, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

In 1949 he was an intern, appointed by the U.S. Department of State, to the United Nations, serving at Lake Success.

He was from 1950 to 1953 a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Social Studies in 1953.

Dr. Brademas has been awarded honorary degrees by 52 colleges and universities, most recently (2003) the degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Oxford. The degree citation described him as "a man of varied talents and extraordinary energy, the most practical of academics, the most scholarly of men of action". He is an Honorary Fellow of Brasenose College, his college at Oxford.

In 1955–56 he was Executive Assistant to Adlai E. Stevenson in charge of research on issues during the 1956 presidential campaign. Prior to his election to Congress, he was (1957–58) Assistant Professor of Political Science at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Dr. Brademas, a former member of the Senate of Phi Beta Kappa, its governing body, is a director of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

He is a former member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and was a delegate from the United Methodist Church to the Fifth Assembly of the WCC held in Nairobi in 1975.

LEADER IN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION

In a 1975 *Change* magazine poll of 4,000 college and university presidents, foundation executives, government officials and journalists, John Brademas was named one of "the Top Four" (with Clark Kerr, Theodore M. Hesburgh and Roger W. Heyns) "most important people in American higher education".

In 1977 Dr. Brademas chaired the first Congressional delegation during the Carter Administration to visit the People's Republic of China, and in 1985 took part in the First Chinese-U.S. University Presidents' Seminar, held in Beijing.

In 1979, he led a delegation of Members of the House of Representatives who met in Moscow with Members of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Dr. Brademas led other Congressional delegations on official visits to Europe and Latin America.

During 1981–83 Dr. Brademas served, by appointment of House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., on the National Commission on Student Financial Assistance and chaired its Subcommittee on Graduate Education. In 1983 the Commission approved the Subcommittee's study, *Signs of Trouble and Erosion: A Report on Graduate Education in America*.

Dr. Brademas is a former member both of the National Commission on Financing Postsecondary Education and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. In 1982–83 he served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Relations between Universities and Government in Support of Science.

In 1984 he served as chairman, by appointment of Governor Mario Cuomo, of the New York State Council on Fiscal and Economic Priorities.

In 1986–87 he served on the American Council on Education's Commission on National Challenges to Higher Education.

In 1986 he served on the National Commission on Jobs and Small Business.

During 1987–89 Dr. Brademas served on the National (Volcker) Commission on the Public Service, which produced *Leadership for*

America, recommendations for attracting able persons to the career Federal civil service. He subsequently served, by appointment of President George H.W. Bush, on the National Advisory Council on the Public Service.

In 1992 he served on the Carnegie International Endowment National Commission on America and the New World. He also served on the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology and Government and chaired its Committee on Congress.

MEMBER, EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS

In 1998, in Buenos Aires, he was inducted as a Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Education of Argentina and in 1999, in Vienna, a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

He is an Honorary Patron of the Fundación Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid.

He is a director of the American Friends of Girona (Spain) Museum and Institute, and member of the Board of Advisors of VSA/arts and the International Advisory Council of the Pharos Trust (Cyprus).

He serves on the National Advisory Board, Institutions of Democracy, Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania.

He is a member of The Pilgrims Society of Great Britain and The Pilgrims Society of the United States.

He is former chairman of the National Advisory Committee of "Fighting Back," a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program to help communities reduce demand for illegal drugs and alcohol.

He was also chairman of the Advisory Council of the David Rockefeller Fellowships of the New York City Partnership.

In 1990 he served as co-chairman of the Independent Commission created by Congress to review the grant-making procedures of the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 1996 he served on the Twentieth Century Fund Task Force on the Presidential Appointments Process.

In 1975 Dr. Brademas was awarded the Gold Medal of St. Barnabas by President Makarios of Cyprus.

In 1978 Dr. Brademas received the annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

In 1980 he was, with Leonard Bernstein and Eubie Blake, one of the first three recipients from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, of the George Foster Peabody Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music in America.

In 1981 he received the Town Hall (New York City) Friend of the Arts Award.

Dr. Brademas was named High Knight Commander of Honor (Order of the Phoenix) by President Constantine Karamanlis of Greece in 1981.

In 1982 Patriarch Diodoros of Jerusalem made Dr. Brademas a Grand Commander of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher.

Dr. Brademas has received other awards, including the Annual Cultural Award, Recording Industry of America; the Distinguished Service Award, American Association of University Presses; the Medal for Distinguished Service, Teachers College, Columbia University; and the award for Distinguished Service in International Education of the Institute of International Education.

Dr. Brademas received the first James Bryant Conant Award for distinguished service to

education from the Education Commission of the States, the Gold Key Award of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Distinguished Service Award of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Caritas Society Award for outstanding contributions in the field of mental retardation, and the Humanist of the Year Award of the National Association for Humanities Education.

HONORS AND AWARDS

In 1984 Dr. Brademas received the annual Hubert H. Humphrey Award of the American Political Science Association for outstanding public service by a political scientist.

In 1984 Dr. Brademas was named a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France.

In 1985 Dr. Brademas received the annual Charles Evans Hughes Gold Medal Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews "for courageous leadership in governmental, civic and humanitarian affairs."

In 1986 Dr. Brademas, first native-born American of Greek origin elected to Congress, was one of eighty persons to receive the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

In 1988 he received the National Governors' Association Award for Distinguished Service to State Government.

In 1990 Dr. Brademas received the Athenagoras Award for Human Rights, named for the late Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

GOLD MEDAL OF HONOR, CITY OF ATHENS

In 1991 he was awarded the Gold Medal of Honor of the City of Athens.

In 1992 he received the Annual American Assembly Service to Democracy Award and Dwight D. Eisenhower Medal.

In 1993 he received the Human Dignity Award of the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation.

In 1996 he received the American Council for the Arts Award for Distinguished Service.

In 1997 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indiana Council for the Humanities.

"SERVICE TO DEMOCRACY" AWARD

In 1998 he was named a "Distinguished Friend of Oxford University" and received the Lifetime Achievement Award of The Cyprus Federation of America.

In 1999 he received the Benjamin Rush Award for "humanistic values in corporate and government life", Dickinson College, Pa; and the Anderson Ranch Arts Center (Aspen, Colorado), National Service Award.

In 2000 he received the Annual Fulbright Award from Metro International (New York City) for "significant contribution to international understanding".

In 2000 he received the Lifetime Achievement for Leadership in the Arts Award from Americans for the Arts and the United States Conference of Mayors. He also was awarded the Honorary Title of Commendatore in the Order of Merit, conferred by the President of the Republic of Italy.

In 2001 he received the Service to Democracy Award of the National Endowment for Democracy.

In 2001 he was awarded the Albert Gallatin Medal of New York University, presented annually to a member of the NYU family for outstanding contributions to society.

JOHN BRADEMAS POST OFFICE, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

In 2002 the Post Office in South Bend, Indiana, was named the "John Brademas Post Office".

In 2002 he received the Distinguished Service Award of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

In 2004 he received the first Global Education Achievement Award from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

In 2006 he was selected by the American Association of Museums for inclusion on the AAM Centennial Honor Roll as "a pioneer in the museum field" because of his co-sponsorship of the "legislation establishing the National Endowment for the Humanities and his having been "chief House sponsor of the Museum Services Act. . . ."

AUTHOR, "WASHINGTON, DC TO WASHINGTON SQUARE"

Dr. Brademas' study of the anarchist movement in Spain, "Anarcosindicalismo y revolución en España, 1930-37", was published in Barcelona by Ariel in 1974.

Dr. Brademas is, with Lynne P. Brown, author of "The Politics of Education: Conflict and Consensus on Capitol Hill," published in 1987 by the University of Oklahoma Press.

He is also author of Washington, DC to Washington Square (New York: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1986), a collection of essays, speeches and book reviews on Federal policy toward higher education, the arts, humanities, libraries and museums, and the education of handicapped children; as well as on foreign and economic policy; Greek studies in the United States; the place of religion in public life; and other subjects.

He is married to Mary Ellen Brademas, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. A physician in private practice in New York City, Dr. Brademas is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Medicine. A member of the Department of Dermatology of the NYU Medical Center, she is former director of the venereal disease clinic at Bellevue Hospital and former chief of dermatology at St. Vincent's Hospital.

JOHN BRADEMÁS HAS LIVED SEVERAL LIVES

Madam Speaker, Our distinguished former colleague, John Brademas, has lived several lives. He has been a dedicated and highly productive Member of the House of Representatives, an effective legislator and maker of national policy; he has been president of the Nation's largest private university in which position he brought NYU to new heights; he has served in a wide range of pro bono positions, both as a Member of Congress and since his having gone to New York University.

There will still be some members of the House of Representatives and the Senate who served with John Brademas, and they will, I believe, share my sentiments, on both sides of the aisle, in expressing our admiration for his outstanding public service.

HONORING MICHAEL HOWE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Michael Howe. Mike served as the president of the East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF) in

Oakland from 1993 until 2006. Throughout his career, Mike has been known for his tireless work on behalf of the East Bay community. This year Mike, who currently serves as the EBCF president emeritus, celebrates his retirement after more than a decade of unparalleled service to that organization, and many more to the 9th Congressional District.

Mike holds a B.A. in sociology from the University of San Francisco, as well as an M.A. and an ABD in sociology from the University of California, Davis. Before joining the EBCF, Mike was the senior planning and evaluation officer for the Marin Community Foundation from 1986 until 1993. Prior to that, he was a professor of sociology and founding dean of the College of Professional Studies at the University of San Francisco, where he was also tenured as an associate professor.

Mike came to the East Bay Community Foundation in 1993. Under his leadership, the EBCF evolved from a small grant-making organization into one of the top 50 community foundations in the country. Mike's work was central to the EBCF's transformation into an organization that is known for leading changemaking initiatives that successfully solve community problems. Working with government agencies, non-profit organizations, business leaders and civic groups, Mike has sought to improve afterschool programs for youth; prevent street crime and violence; provide arts education; enhance land-use planning to incorporate features for sustainable communities; and expand community philanthropy. Mike has attracted new expertise and funding to the EBCF, which now makes grants to more than 1,000 non-profit organizations, primarily in the East Bay. His efforts have made the EBCF a world-class institution for community leadership and social change, and have touched countless lives here in the 9th Congressional District and beyond.

In addition to his stellar work leading the EBCF, Mike has been and continues to be heavily involved in a number of other boards and organizations here in the Bay Area. He serves on the boards of organizations such as the Institute for Community Peace; Northern California Grantmakers; the John Gardener Center at Stanford University, the Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth; and the Richmond Children's Foundation.

Today the friends, family and colleagues of Mike Howe have come together to celebrate not only his retirement, but also his legacy of service, and his permanent and positive impact on our community. On this very special day, I join all of them in thanking and saluting Mike for his profound contributions to California's 9th Congressional District, our country and our world.

HONORING CHARLES W. DAVIDSON
FOR HIS PHILANTHROPIC WORK
IN SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Charles W. Davidson, one of San Jose, California's most successful home builders and a dedicated patron of San Jose State University.

Mr. Davidson is an alumnus of San Jose State University. Born and raised in Oklahoma cattle country, Davidson served 3 years in the Air Force before working as an engineer for the state highway department.

In 1954, Davidson met and married Anita Wien, also a graduate of San Jose State University and they settled in Willow Glen.

Davidson opened a consulting engineering company in 1960 and then in 1961 began his business in homebuilding. He founded five companies and by the 1980s he had become the biggest independent builder of subsidized housing in Northern California.

While his businesses are a vital part of the area economy, Davidson is also a role model in giving back to the community. In 1992 he created a foundation that supports the arts, higher education and human services organizations.

Mr. Davidson's foundation was a major contributor to San Jose State University's new athletic training facility. He chaired the fundraising efforts which resulted in a \$1 million gift from the Koret Foundation. Although Davidson did not play competitive sports at SJSU, he has been a devoted fan of Spartan athletics, attending nearly every football game since 1952.

For the College of Engineering at San Jose State University, Davidson has recently endowed a \$2 million professorship for construction management in his field of civil engineering.

Davidson is also strongly loyal to the several hundred people who work for him, providing the maximum retirement plan the government allows and overseeing the companies' pension funds himself.

I am pleased to honor Mr. Charles W. Davidson for his philanthropic and business contributions to the San Jose area that I have the honor of representing.

**A TRIBUTE TO SHERINE BROWN
JENNELS, PH.D.**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Sherine Brown Jennels. Dr. Jennels is a native New Yorker and the daughter of James and Delva E. Brown, sister of Jayson S. Brown. She is an Interdisciplinary Scientist at the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. She is developing science policies and enforcement strategies to promote the public's health and protect the Nation's food supply.

In May 2002, Dr. Jennels became the first African-American of Panamanian heritage to obtain a Ph.D. from Harvard University in Biological Sciences in Public Health. Her doctoral research focused on biochemistry of nutrition in the area of cholesterol metabolism, genetic epidemiology, and coronary heart disease risk. Dr. Jennels did her postdoctoral training at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, in Boston, Massachusetts, where she worked on protocol and laboratory development of the OMNI-Heart Clinical Trial (Optimal Macronutrient Intake and Heart-Disease). She was the featured scientist on the website's educational recruitment video.

Dr. Jennels presented her graduate research in Florence, Italy, at the sixth International Symposium on Global Risk of Coronary Heart Disease and Stroke. She also presented her research at Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association, which published those findings.

In 2004, Dr. Jennels was accepted as a science fellow to the United States Department of Health and Human Service's Emerging Leaders Program. This fellowship has given her the unique opportunity to work with leading government officials and scientists at the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition; Office of the Secretary; Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; Office of Minority Health; and the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Jennels is driven to improve the health and wellness for all Americans as a way to address the social conditions affecting the underserved. As a scientist, she considers herself an ambassador of health, nutrition and fitness, especially advocating for minorities experiencing health disparities.

Attending Oakwood College crystallized her commitment for service and community. Appreciating the value of her B.S. degree in biochemistry from the historically Black Seventh-day Adventist institution, she also recognized the importance of her college's motto, "Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve." Taking this to heart, she has served as a youth ministry leader, short-term missionary volunteer, and a keynote speaker for several health, youth, and women's events.

In 2005, Dr. Jennels developed Operation Love Thy Neighbor, an organization designed to provide resources and support to families displaced by Hurricane Katrina in the Maryland area. This collaborative ministry of the Emmanuel-Brinklow SDA church assisted families and individuals in securing permanent housing, health care, transportation, emotional support, and/or household needs.

Dr. Jennels is married to Ernest Leland Jennels, and they reside in Bowie, Maryland. She enjoys traveling, sightseeing, the outdoors, sports, the arts, music, photography, and inspirational reading.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Jennels for her endless list of accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Sherine Brown Jennels.

**CELEBRATION OF REGISTER
BAPTIST CHURCH**

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Register Baptist Church. Originally organized in 1906 as the Missionary Baptist Church of Register, Register Baptist Church was officially constituted and accepted into the Bullock County Baptist Association in 1907. Although the first church building was destroyed by fire in 1956, the church rebuilt and dedicated the new building on June 21, 1959. Later expansions included a social hall and education building. Register Baptist Church has brought

joy, laughter, support, and glory to the town of Register for 100 years—may God bless the future years for Register Baptist Church.

HONORING IOTA LADY BULLDOGS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Iota Lady Bulldogs basketball team, who ended a perfect season this year by claiming the Class AA Louisiana Girl's Basketball Championship with a 95–72 win over Many High School.

The Lady Bulldogs sealed their victory in the second half, outscoring their opponents 56–30 to claim the school's first girl's State championship victory in 15 years. Previously, many had eliminated the Iota girl's team from the 2005 and 2006 State tournaments, but the third time was a charm for this year's Iota Lady Bulldogs squad. The win caps off a remarkable season for the team, which compiled a 43–0 overall record.

Madam Speaker, these student athletes will always cherish the memory of this season. The players, their families, and their classmates who cheered them on will always look back to this season as a source of pride, accomplishment and satisfaction.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Iota Lady Bulldogs for their achievement.

**IN HONOR OF COMMANDER JOHN
A. HAYES**

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, Commander John A. Hayes relinquishes command of Electronic Attack Squadron Two Zero Nine on April 14, 2007 and leaves behind a legacy of honor, courage, and personal contributions to his shipmates and our Nation.

Commander Hayes was raised in Avon, New York, and entered military service in 1986 from the University of Notre Dame Reserve Officer Training Corps. He was detailed to flight training and received his designation as a Naval Aviator in November 1988.

He reported to Attack Squadron Forty Two (VA-42) for fleet replacement training in the A-6E Intruder, and upon completion was ordered to Attack Squadron Thirty Five (VA-35) assigned to Carrier Air Wing Seventeen on-board USS Saratoga (CV-60). Commander Hayes deployed to the Red Sea in August of 1990 in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, completing an 8-month deployment and flying 30 combat sorties.

In 1996, Commander Hayes was selected for affiliation with Electronic Attack Squadron Two Zero Nine (VAQ-209) assigned to Carrier Air Wing Reserve Twenty. While assigned to VAQ-209, he has deployed three times to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, in support of Operation Northern Watch, to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Southern Watch, to Aviano Air Base, Italy for

Operation Allied Force, and has completed numerous other land and sea-based detachments.

Commander Hayes assumed command of VAQ-209 in October 2005. During his command tour, he led the Star Warriors on a 3-month combat deployment to Al Asad Air Base, Iraq for operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Under his leadership, the squadron also earned the 2005 Department of Defense Family Readiness Award and the 2006 Noel Davis Battle Efficiency Award, and received the 2006 Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve nomination for the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Excellence Phoenix Award.

Commander Hayes received numerous military decorations and awards. They include the Air Medal with Combat "V," the Strike/Flight Air Medal (8), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" (2), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4), and various campaign medals and unit awards.

On a personal note, it is my honor to have served with "Woody"—his call sign. I have deployed with him many times, including to Operation Allied Force, which ended the nightmare in Kosovo, to Operation Northern Watch which enforced U.N. mandated No Fly Zones over Saddam Hussein's Iraq, and many other smaller detachments. I have flown with him. Professionalism and consummate skill are the hallmarks of this Naval Aviator in combat. Courage and inspired leadership are those of this naval officer in command.

TRIBUTE TO THE CEDARVILLE TROJANS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the only undefeated high school basketball team this season in the State of Michigan, the Cedarville Trojans. The journey for the Trojans to the State Championship at Michigan State University in East Lansing to win the Class D State Championship was a long road, but one that these young men navigated with heart and dignity, making all of Michigan's Upper Peninsula proud.

Last season, the Cedarville Trojans traveled to the State championship semi-finals, but their path stopped there. This year, when the team returned to Michigan State for the finals, they were determined not to be stopped. Equally dramatic, in this year's championship game, the Trojans faced the Tri-Unity Defenders, the same team that defeated the Trojans in last year's semi-final game.

The 2006–2007 Cedarville Trojans are not, by any means, the tallest team in Michigan High School Class D Basketball. The Trojans' tallest player, Justin Baker, stands at six feet and one inch. However, what the Cedarville Trojans lacked in height, they made up in hard work, practice and natural ability.

Throughout the season, the Cedarville Trojans distinguished themselves as effective scorers. In particular, the team honed their three-point shooting ability, making their outside game a dangerous weapon. Thanks to the team's remarkable shooting ability, the

Cedarville Trojans broke the 100-point ceiling during four different games throughout the season, including scoring 106 points against Posen High School in the regional final. Cedarville's scoring ability would prove critical during the State championship game.

Early in the championship game, the Cedarville Trojans put their opponents on notice that the Trojans planned to win. By half-time, thanks to their avalanche of three-point shots, the Trojans led 45–32. In the second half, while the Defenders used their superior height to creep back into the game, the Trojans continued their three-pointer scoring onslaught. Ultimately, Cedarville would score 11 three-point shots, breaking the previous record of 10 three-point shots in a single State championship game. This shooting lead Cedarville to a 77–74 victory and capped a perfect, 26–0 season.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating the 2006–2007 Cedarville Trojans: Jordan Sweeney, Sheldon Tassier, Jim Eberts, Matt Hansen, Kevin Thompson, Jason Duncan, Jordan Duncan, C.J. Paquin, Taylor Smith, Luke Murray, Justin Baker, Cody Thompson, Scott McGreevey, James Mitchell, and Keith Foster.

It is with great pleasure that I single out their head coach, David Duncan, who has built a solid coaching record over the last year 17 years, winning 248 games and losing only 147 games. Mr. Duncan's assistant coaches, Scott Barr and Kurt Duncan, are also to be commended for leading this year's Cedarville Trojans through this historic season. I also salute the team's managers, Adam Dingman and Joe Duncan, for their hard work. These adults deserve our collective commendation for spending so much personal time preparing these young men for the challenges of the season and the challenges they will face later in life.

As Coach Duncan has noted, the unofficial theme for the Cedarville Trojans basketball team this year has been, "Dream Big." Clearly, the young men of this team dared to dream big by battling their way to a perfect season, defeating taller teams, and bringing home Cedarville's first State championship. For dreaming big and for making their families and community proud, I salute this fine basketball team and ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting their efforts. Congratulations to the Class D, State of Michigan Basketball Champions, the Cedarville Trojans.

THE GLOBAL WARMING EDUCATION ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the legislation I am introducing, the Global Warming Education Act.

Scientific concepts, whether simple or complex, can take a significant amount of time to become widely known and understood. Hundreds of years ago, Galileo and Sir Isaac Newton made remarkable discoveries about gravity and the behavior of falling objects, but to this day, most people cannot explain the Law of Gravity, what determines the speed of

a falling object, or why an astronaut in orbit appears to be weightless. Many adults have difficulty explaining the cause of the seasons, the phases of the Moon, or the composition of the atmosphere.

People can go on with their everyday lives without most scientific knowledge, suffering no ill effects. You don't need to understand gravity for things to keep falling. You don't need to understand how your lungs work in order to breathe.

Global warming, however, presents a new kind of problem. The widespread understanding of global warming will play a significant role in our ability to actually address the problem. If we do nothing, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions will continue to rise, and global warming will continue. We don't have much time.

It is well established that global warming may cause significant negative impacts, including drought, rising sea levels, retreating glaciers, changes to wildlife migration patterns, and increased storm strength. These threats are real. They are the natural consequences of a worldwide over-reliance on fossil fuels, an insatiable appetite for energy, and inefficient use of resources.

There are things that people can do, right now, to help fight global warming. People need to be armed with the knowledge that will help them in this fight. I believe that by expanding knowledge, we can maximize the impact of carbon-reducing measures.

My new legislation, the Global Warming Education Act, will create a Global Warming Education Program in the National Science Foundation, to broaden the understanding of human-induced global warming, possible long and short-term consequences, and potential solutions. This program will provide formal and informal learning opportunities to people of all ages, including those of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The program will provide actionable information to enhance the implementation of new technologies, programs, and incentives related to energy conservation, renewable energy, and greenhouse gas reduction. Maximum understanding will ensure maximum impact.

The activities in the Global Warming Education Program will include a public information campaign to help people understand global warming, and grants for innovative projects to expand climate science education. These grants can be used to develop new climate science education materials including print, electronic, and audiovisual materials.

With the increased knowledge provided by this act, people will be able to make choices in their lives and in their communities to fight global warming. People will learn about home improvements, tax incentives, and other measures that can benefit the environment. They will learn about alternative energy sources and new technologies. They will learn about transportation and consumer choices that can also benefit their pocketbooks. They will learn how their own actions and their own informed choices can make a difference.

The Global Warming Education Act is one part of the solution to global warming. In addition to improvements in climate science education, this Congress will need to pass measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, promote clean, renewable energy, and increase energy efficiency.

I thank the cosponsors of this bill for their support, and I urge the rest of my colleagues

in the House to support the Global Warming Education Act.

TRIBUTE TO MAN MINH PHAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose life has touched many people in San Rafael, California. Man Minh Phan, known as Mr. Man, is receiving the 2007 Citizen of the Year award from the city for his outstanding community activism in the Canal neighborhood. This area has a large immigrant population, including 500 Vietnamese-Americans, endeavoring to assimilate into our country's culture.

Now 73-years-old, Mr. Man is a former South Vietnamese army officer who immigrated with his wife to the United States in 1990 after 6 years of imprisonment in a communist re-education camp and another 8 years waiting for relocation. They joined his son, a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, who had arrived in San Rafael a year earlier after escaping Vietnam by boat. Mr. Man also has two daughters who live in Vietnam.

During his 16 years in the Canal area, Mr. Man has been active in organizing and teaching classes in citizenship as well as Vietnamese (for the children) and English as a Second Language (to help adults). He founded the Vietnamese-American Friendship Group, serves on the Advisory Board of the local Pickleweed Park Community Center, leads the Canal Beautification Project, served on the Marin County Sheriff Advisory Board, and helps organize the annual Tet New Year festival.

But these descriptors do not do justice to the man who is the very heart of his neighborhood, a man who works tirelessly and enthusiastically for his community. Often referred to as the "Angel of the Canal," Mr. Man is everywhere, offering a helping hand to anyone who needs it. His neighbors in the Canal understand that his classes are a place to bring people together, not just to learn languages. He is not paid for his teaching and lives simply, relishing the opportunity to give back for the freedom he enjoys here.

Mr. Man also gives to his homeland. He is known for his habit of picking up recycling on the streets, with the proceeds sent to the needy in Vietnam, from wartime amputees to orphans—"whoever wrote me a letter," he says. Others have been inspired to join him in the collection to add to the amounts he can provide.

Madam Speaker, Man Minh Phan's activism and spirit inspire all of us. His own words sum up what our country is about: "I was asked what we need, and I said the most important need is freedom. Freedom is the top of my life."

REMEMBERING SERGEANT
NICHOLAS J. LIGHTNER

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask this chamber to pause today and reflect upon the life of Sergeant Nicholas J. Lightner, United States Army.

Nicholas served proudly with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the famed 1st Cavalry Division.

Sergeant Lightner was known by his peers as a tough soldier; to his men he was known as the kind of leader that people followed. He set an example of courage and valor that will stand the strains of memory and time.

For much of his twenty-nine years, Nicholas Lightner wore the uniform of our country because he believed there was no higher calling.

He took his profession seriously, and Sergeant Lightner reflected great credit upon himself, the Army, and the State of Oregon.

Sadly, Sergeant Lightner died just a few days ago, just a few miles from the Capitol at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Most of his patrol perished in the attack on March 15, 2007. Nicholas Lightner survived Baghdad, and fought for his life with the same bravery he showed in the field. But the wounds were too severe; his devotion to duty ultimately was paid in full with his last measure.

I am here today to ask us all to remember. Remember the sacrifice of those we send onto foreign soil for our benefit; to pledge to ourselves and to the families forever altered by this sacrifice that they will not have perished in vain.

America is a great nation: great, because it is defended by volunteers that answer the call of service and stand in our stead; great, because our values are important enough to the men and women of our Armed Forces that they willingly sacrifice their sweat, their labor, and sometimes their lives.

Nicholas Lightner died because he took upon himself the burden of protecting the Nation, State, and community he loved. Newport, Toledo, in fact all of Oregon, are now forever less than we would have been had Nicholas survived.

Let us begin anew to dedicate ourselves to a cause that Nicholas Lightner believed in; let us begin today.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague Congressman CIRO RODRIGUEZ for arranging this time on the floor for us to celebrate World Social Work Day and to acknowledge the contributions of social workers to the well-being of our society.

I'm proud to say that I'm a social worker and that my predecessor, former Congress-

man and now mayor of Oakland, Ron Delums, was also a social worker. I believe our records, interests and efforts here in Congress and outside reflect the influence of our social work background. This education has helped me to form my principles and has helped me to fight injustice and inequality, not just here in the U.S. but also abroad.

Social workers make a difference in people's lives everyday and at all levels. They're in the streets working one-on-one with the homeless. They're in the hospitals and clinics helping people through their health crises. They're in the schools making our kids safe, adjusted, and prepared to take on the world. They're advocating for the rights of our country's most vulnerable citizens—our children, the elderly, the mentally ill, the poor, and others in our society that may not have a strong voice. They're fighting for social justice and human rights internationally and they're creating policies and programs here in the halls of both the Congress and the Senate that address the needs of our society.

The hallmark trait of a social worker is their ability to empathize—their ability and willingness to put themselves in someone else's place. This is not always an easy thing to do. Many times social workers encounter people who are in extreme states of crisis. Times when their lives are feeling out of control. It's no easy feat to step into someone else's nightmare and help them find the strength to cope, to problem-solve, and to move forward. But this is what social workers do on a daily basis.

Nonetheless, there are also times that are incredibly heartening and rewarding—times that renew your faith in humanity. They are the times when you see the first trusting smile on the face of a child that came from the chaos of an abusive home and you feel that connection. They are the times when you're able to help a family—homeless and devastated by the ravages of a massive natural disaster. They are times when the grassroots movement you've been working with is able to achieve its goal. They're the times when you're able to help a young man who seemed like he was starting down the path to a life of crime to find a better road and to make better decisions.

One of the ways that I think I've best used my social work education has been in the work I have done here in Congress. As a social worker, I am concerned about the many things that ail our community as a whole. That is why I have made the fight against AIDS a priority—not just domestically, but also abroad. We need to stop crimes against humanity, like the genocide that continues to ravage the Darfur region. I also believe we need to fully fund No Child Left Behind. Our education system is failing—No Child Left Behind is failing our children, our teachers, our parents, and our community as a whole.

Recognizing the importance that social workers bring to our schools, I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues who have cosponsored H.R. 171, the Student Support Act. I hope more of my colleagues will consider supporting this legislation, which helps ensure that our schools have the necessary amount of mental health professionals at their schools, including school social workers, school psychologists, counselors and psychiatrists. Almost all States fall below the recommended guidelines by the American Counseling Association of 1 counselor for every

250 students. My own State of California has 966 students for every one counselor. So I hope my colleagues can cosponsor this important act, and maybe we can see this legislation make some progress here in the House.

Social workers don't just make an impact on our students—social workers give back to our society by helping to make better citizens of us all. They strive to help their clients become the best that they can be, to improve their communities and to confront the injustices that they see. They foster a new way of looking at the world around you—one where you see promise and possibility. Social workers help us to realize a world where mediation, coalition building and effective communication are used to find peaceful solutions instead of military posturing.

I'd like to close by saying, I'm grateful to be part of a profession that is devoted to service to our people and that is so necessary to our society's well-being. I know that many of my dedicated colleagues work quietly in the field and that their contributions are not always given the attention they deserve, so I'm very pleased to be able to celebrate this day and to publicly acknowledge their contributions.

Thank you again, Congressman CIRO RODRIGUEZ for organizing this special order, and also thank you to all of my colleagues who were able to participate tonight.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE "DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POST OFFICE" IN PORTLAND, OREGON

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon as the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Post Office." This post office, located near Martin Luther King Boulevard, shall serve to remind us of the civil rights leader who inspired a nation and served as a catalyst for change. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of equality and brotherhood between people of all creeds and colors remains a vital and relevant vision. While our nation has come a long way since the days of the civil rights movement, it will always benefit us to be reminded of the ideals and inspiration of Dr. King. I am honored to introduce this bill as another tribute to and reminder of this remarkable leader.

ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on February 7, 2007, the House Committee of the Judiciary passed by voice vote H.R. 137, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007. This is a bad piece of legislation that will

greatly devalue human life in the eyes of the law.

H.R. 137 would make it a federal felony to transport a chicken across state lines for the purpose of exhibiting it in a fight. Currently, 49 states have laws on the books to address this issue. To add a federal law would add another layer of bureaucracy to an already complicated legal code.

I believe that human life is diminished by our making it a felony to transport animals for fighting, without first making it a felony to take a minor girl across a state line for an abortion. It is a strong conviction of mine to fight for the sanctity of life.

While I believe that it is important that we act humanely in our treatment of animals, I do not believe that we should put their welfare ahead of unborn babies or minor girls. I call upon the Humane Society to work for humanity to humanity first.

Until we provide a higher standard of protection for human life, I will oppose making interstate transportation of animals for purposes of animal fighting a felony. In the U.S., we are faced with the alarming practice of people taking a minor girl across state lines for an abortion to avoid their own state's laws that require the minor's parents to be notified. Federal legislation, CIANA, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, would only make this abhorrent activity, which exploits a young woman and kills her child, a misdemeanor. Though this legislation has not yet become law, it is a step forward in the right direction. Many who I know opposed CIANA in the past will vote today for the misdemeanor in current law, transporting a chicken, to become a felony, thereby placing animal welfare over that of a young girl and her unborn baby.

I believe that we should not place more value on animal life than we do on human life. It makes no sense that killing a person is a misdemeanor offense while transporting animals to a fight is a felony, punishable by three years in a federal penitentiary.

Mr. Speaker, while on the topic of valuing human life, I would like to talk briefly about bio-medical research, which is opposed by animal rights activists. I would like to mention that there is bio-medical research being done demonstrating, through transgenics, that the immune system from a baboon, or a human for that matter, can be spliced into the DNA of a hog to grow a heart a baboon can use.

The heart was then harvested from the hog and transplanted to a baboon. The baboon lived another 6 months with a heart that was grown in a pig. This is longer than the first human heart transplant patient.

But what has been proven now is that humans can transplant through transgenics the human immune system into a hog. In doing so, and we are only 3 years, maybe 4 years away from being able to custom build the human organ. rejection genetics into a pig.

We will be able to very soon custom raise human organs in hogs. Today we are already transplanting out of hogs and into humans anterior cruciate ligaments and heart valves.

We can raise in hogs 28 different organs. Not just hearts, but lungs, esophagus, stomach, bladder, but other important organs as well, kidneys, pancreas, liver, even skin for burn patients; name your organ. Except for the brain.

The reason for bringing up these pigs is that it further illustrates how the animal rights com-

munity, through legislation such as H.R. 137, seeks to pass their agenda for animals on the rest of America. They oppose using animals for lifesaving research like I just mentioned.

My home state of Iowa is an agricultural state. We understand the importance of animal husbandry and good stewardship of our animals. However, we also understand that animals are less important than humans. Animal rights activists seek to place heifers and hogs on the same level as people. I disagree.

I strongly oppose this legislation because animals should not be elevated above humans. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ ON THE OCCASION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor the legacy of one of our nation's most important advocates of civil rights and labor organization. Cesar Chavez answered one of the highest callings of human life—to lead others in the struggle for social justice. It is for this reason that we proudly observe the 80th anniversary of his birth by voicing our support for House Resolution 76, to establish a national Cesar Chavez Holiday.

Born near Yuma, Arizona, on March 31, 1927, Cesar Estrada Chavez endured a difficult adolescence as a migrant farm worker when his formal education ended after the 7th grade. Migrant workers of this era suffered very harsh working conditions, and were routinely refused pay by farm owners. Chavez was able to escape this life by joining the United States Navy in 1944, at the age of 17.

In 1946, after 2 years of service, Chavez returned to California where he married Helen Fabela and resumed life as a farm worker. Before long, he joined the Community Services Organization, CSO, as a community organizer. Chavez traveled up and down the coast of his State urging Mexican-Americans to register to vote and become legal U.S. citizens, and frequently speaking on the topic of workers' rights.

By the late 1950s, Chavez was convinced that farm workers would be treated fairly only if they were able to form unions to represent their rights. After leaving his post as CSO president in 1962, he used his meager life savings to co-found the National Farm Workers Association, NFWA, the precursor to the United Farm Workers. Though past attempts to organize migrant workers had failed, Chavez traveled to dozens of camps in California and Arizona, teaching workers the fundamentals of union organization and inspiring many to become organizers themselves.

In 1965, Chavez and the NFWA led a strike on behalf of California grape-pickers that culminated in a 250-mile march from Delano, California, to the state capital in Sacramento. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, investigating the strike with the Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, fully endorsed Chavez and his organization, and pronounced Chavez, "one of the heroic figures of our time." The Delano strike

was the first major step in the battle for farm worker rights in the U.S., setting the stage for the 1975 Agriculture Labor Relations Act, the only law in the United States that protects farm workers' rights to unionize. This landmark legislation increased pension benefits, health insurance coverage and pay for thousands of workers.

Chavez continued to demonstrate his devotion to nonviolent advocacy of workers' rights until his death in 1993, at the age of 66. In 1994, President Clinton posthumously awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, saying that Chavez had faced "formidable, often violent opposition with dignity and non-violence". The legacy of Chavez's life's pursuit—his tireless fight for the basic civil rights of millions of workers—remains one that we must not let slip from the collective consciousness of this body. My home State of Michigan has been celebrating Cesar Chavez Day since 2003, and it is time for the Federal Government to follow our example.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pay tribute to Cesar Chavez on this day, and to commemorate his legacy by supporting H. Res. 76 to honor a true hero of our Nation.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT POWERS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has dedicated his entire life to the betterment of his community and the success of his family.

It is my great pleasure to inform the House of Representatives that Mr. Robert "Elliott" Powers of Savin Hill, in the Dorchester neighborhood of Massachusetts, is celebrating his 75th birthday at a surprise celebration with friends and family this Saturday, March 31st, 2007.

Bob Powers is a lifelong resident of Boston who attended Boston public schools, including the Edward Everett and Christopher Columbus High School. Then, at the age of 17, Bob volunteered to serve his country by enlisting in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. The Navy instilled in Bob a lifelong work ethic as well as personal pride and integrity.

As a letter carrier, Bob was a familiar face in the South End, Back Bay, and the Prudential Center where for many years he worked to ensure postal customers received their mail in a timely and professional manner. For 38 years, as a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch No. 43, Bob Powers put on his uniform every day to ensure that the men, women, families, and businesses on his route received their mail. Bob set an example of hard work and dedication to his friends and family that nobly illustrates the best of the American work ethic.

Madam Speaker, Bob Powers has also been a man committed to his community and has dedicated many hours and much energy to various activities within his home parish of St. William, including coaching basketball and managing the band. For many years Bob led St. William's Band, helping countless numbers of young people to find a purpose and direction in their lives. Through his thousands of volunteer hours Bob made sure that each

young person had an opportunity to grow and learn in a safe, enriching, and fun environment.

And most importantly, Bob has had the enormous pleasure and tremendous good fortune to be married to his wife Pat for over 47 years. Additionally, Bob has been blessed with five children: Rosemary, Trish, Kevin, Robert, and Caroline, and is the proud and, from what I hear, doting grandfather to Tierney, Colm, Brendan, Kelli, Erin, and Tara.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Bob's family and friends to thank him for his service to his community and to wish him a happy and healthy 75th birthday. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the birthday of Bob Powers and wishing him well in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF ONTARIO

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today recognition of the bicentennial anniversary of the Town of Ontario. Ontario is located in the northwest corner of Wayne County, with Lake Ontario forming its northern border.

Led by Freeman Hopkins, the town separated from the town of Williamson 200 years ago, on March 27, 1807. After its separation, the town came to be known as Freetown. On February 12, 1808, the town officially became known as Ontario, in honor of the Great Lake on its border.

Ontario was a major location of the iron industry in Wayne County. In 1811, iron was first discovered in Ontario by a Mr. Knickerbocker. A few years later, Samuel Smith built a forge and began the making of iron. The real boom in iron industry came in 1880 when the Furnaceville Iron Company constructed a \$200,000 furnace. For the next 17 years, Ontario became a mining town, and the product was sold for mill and foundry iron. As competition from the other parts of the country grew, the iron beds in Wayne County became idle and the people of the town of Ontario turned to another attribute of the region for sustainability.

Sitting on the shores of Lake Ontario the area proved to be the perfect climate for apple growing. From the initial apple farms roughly a hundred years ago, the apple industry in Wayne County has grown to one of the top producing apple regions in the country.

During the Civil War, the people of Ontario lived up to their town motto of "A Community of Good Neighbors." No other town in Wayne County had as many fearless and brave citizens who served in the Union Army.

Today, the town of Ontario is home to many high-tech industries and alternative energies. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant provides clean energy for the town and the surrounding region while wind power investment at Harbec Industries has spurred economic development. Other small businesses in the town boost accolades that include the manufacturing of parts for the Hubble telescope and equipment for our American troops.

This once farming community has seen many changes from once booming iron production. Today Ontario grows and expands its industrial base while continuing to be a community of good, and proud, neighbors.

On behalf of the people of the 25th Congressional District of New York State, I proudly honor the 200 years of existence of the town of Ontario.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT L. DOMINICK

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the devoted service of Robert L. Dominick, a resident of Crowley, Louisiana who recently retired after concluding 42 years of service to the United States government.

Throughout his career, Robert devoted himself to public service. After graduating from Southern University in 1966 with a degree in Vocational Agriculture, Robert was employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as an Assistant County Supervisor. In addition to his new career with USDA, Robert also enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve in 1966, where he dutifully served for 22 years. Having a desire to continue his education, Robert enrolled at Louisiana State University at Eunice (LSUE), where he received over 30 hours in Administration and Supervision.

Robert held various positions with USDA, including Assistant County Supervisor, County Supervisor, Rural-Economic and Community Development Loan Specialist, Lead Single Family Housing Specialist, and Guaranteed Rural Housing Specialist.

In addition to his distinguished service to our country, Robert also is a devoted member of many organizations in his state and local community. He is a life member of the Southern University Alumni Association, the Peoples Investment Company, the County Supervisors Association, and the Israelite Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of Southwest Louisiana in wishing Robert Dominick a happy retirement, and congratulating him for his invaluable service to his state and his country.

THOMASVILLE HIGH SCHOOL—THE HOME OF CHAMPIONS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, many towns, states, schools, conferences, or leagues try to lay claim to be the "home of champions." But really, can anyone make a better case than Thomasville High School in Thomasville, North Carolina? The fact that the mighty Bulldogs reside in the Sixth District of North Carolina does nothing to dissuade me that Thomasville High School truly deserves to be called the home of champions, or perhaps, be renamed Title Town High! Allow me the opportunity to make the case for Thomasville High School.

On March 10, 2007, the Thomasville Bulldogs captured the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) 1-A men's basketball championship with an 86-76 win over North Edgecombe High School. This win was the fifth state basketball championship in the last 10 years. On December 9, 2006, Thomasville won its seventh state football title with a 13-7 victory over James Kenan High School in the NCHSAA 1-AA championship contest. This was the seventh football crown in the school's history, the third consecutive state championship, and the 37th straight win dating back to the 2004 season. So, that is 12 state titles from just two sports, football and men's basketball. Space and time do not permit us to list all of the titles—such as the men's soccer team in 2005 and the women's basketball team in 2004—we could go on and on, but for argument's sake, let's stipulate that Thomasville High School is truly the home of champions. Permit me a moment to detail the two most recent titles in men's basketball and football.

In the middle of March Madness, the Thomasville men's basketball team won the NCHSAA 1-A championship. Thomasville defeated North Edgecombe 86-76 in a game that saw nine lead changes and seven ties. The win capped a remarkable season for the Bulldogs in which they finished 24-2 and were perfect following back-to-back losses at a tournament in December. Head Coach Woody Huneycutt told the Thomasville Times that the title win came against a strong opponent. "I am really proud of this group," Coach Huneycutt told his hometown newspaper. "They did a heck of a job today. North Edgecombe was an extremely quick, physical, hustling team. They put everything I thought they had on the floor, and I thought our guys did the same. Of course, we had to, to be successful." And successful they were thanks to a complete team effort.

Congratulations are in order for Coach Huneycutt and his assistant Lacardo Means. In fact, Coach Huneycutt told the Thomasville Times, "One of the main reasons we are here and we do as well as we do year after year is Lacardo Means. He is very instrumental to us being successful." Both men will be the first to tell you that most of the credit goes to the players on the court. Those who contributed to the title run included Donald Sims, Justin Moore, Bud Ray, Jeremy McKiver, Alex Perry, Zach Perry, E.J. Abrams-Ward, Evander Davis, Dominique Pickett, Trey Ray, Chris Woods, Michael Byrd, and Ari Foust. The team was ably assisted by scorekeeper Connie McLendon, statisticians Willie Green, Quan Warley and Demajio Lawson, and videographers Quiana Mock and Felicia McFadden. Several seniors on the basketball squad also play football for Thomasville and they are leaving high school with five championship rings.

On December 9, 2006, the Bulldogs completed a perfect 16-0 season with a third consecutive NCHSAA 1-AA football championship. Thomasville defeated James Kenan High School 13-7 at aptly-named Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill to cap an incredible run to the crown. Head Coach Benjie Brown, who has led the Bulldogs to the three straight titles, told the High Point Enterprise at the end of the game that meeting everyone's high expectations does take a toll. "When you get to this point," he told the newspaper, "it's so taxing

and so tiring, it won't set in for a day or two. The emotions and effort that goes into it, the length of the season, it's wearing on players and coaches. It'll take a little while to really sit back and enjoy it, but I am happy for those kids out there."

Now that some time has passed, I am sure that Coach Brown is very happy and proud of the hard work that went into completing the quest for the Bulldogs third straight state football championship. The perfect season was thanks in no small part in Coach Brown and his assistant coaches Stan Baranowski, Allen Brown, Roger Bryant, Sam Captain, Danny Medlin, Matt Pugh, Brandon Staton, Nick Sweitzer, Jaz Tate, and Tyler Tobin, along with community coaches Vince Brown, Ed Courtney, Kemp Harvey, and Don Osborne.

The entire roster contributed to Thomasville's latest football triumph. Members of the team included: Najee Brown, Jeremy McKiver, T.J. Steele, Willie Green, Bradley Watkins, E.J. Abrams-Ward, Justin Moore, Chris Woods, Quinton Lindsey, Scott Hines, Quan Warley, Mose Jones, Rashad Whitaker, Chris Webber, Brad Wilkes, Bud Ray, Arsenio Hudson, Dajuan Ingram, Lawrence Jackson, Heath Stroud, Kirk Yarborough, Martez Wilson, Demagio Lawson, Brandon Moss, Jaquane Mouzone, Mark Green, Lorenzo Cannon, Logan Barnes, Jerrell Wilson, Marcus Bratton, Courtney Henry, Avery Hudson, Ari Foust, Akeim Rainey, Quentin Long, Preston Atwood, Tommy Green, Cornelius Davis, Trey Ray, Evander Davis, Jameson Donnell, Willie Cannon, and Michael Byrd.

Those who didn't wear a uniform, but contributed in so many other ways can equally share the accolades coming to Thomasville's champions. We congratulate trainers Kenny Coker and Byron Lattimore, team doctors David Williams and Rob Williams, statistician Barry Tucker, film crew members Travis Leanord, Wade Loffin, Casey Medlin, and Adam Oakley, middle school head coach Eric Rader, gym maintenance staffer Bill Moore, and team managers Ryan Hanner, Luke Williams and Antwon Simon.

Congratulations to Principal Dick Gurley, Athletic Director Woody Huneycutt, the faculty, staff, students, and families of Thomasville High School on another outstanding athletic season.

Madam Speaker, I feel I have made a compelling argument to christen Thomasville High School as the "home of champions." Even if others disagree with our assessment, I am sure that everyone in the Sixth District of North Carolina does agree that the Bulldogs' collection of state championships is mighty impressive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on matters affecting my family from voting on Tuesday, March 27, 2007. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes:

Rollcall No. 190—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1401, Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007.

Rollcall No. 191—H. Res. 269—Rule providing for consideration H.R. 835—Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007.

Rollcall No. 192—H. Res. 270—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1401, Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007.

Rollcall No. 193—H. Res. 299—Supporting the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and the World Social Work Day.

Rollcall No. 194—On agreeing to the Thompson (MS) amendment to H.R. 1401.

Rollcall No. 195—On agreeing to the Cohen amendment to H.R. 1401.

Rollcall No. 198—On agreeing to the Thompson (MS) amendment to H.R. 1401.

Rollcall No. 199—On agreeing to the Cohen amendment to H.R. 1401.

Rollcall No. 201—On passage—H.R. 1401. Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on the following rollcall votes:

Rollcall No. 196—On agreeing to the Sessions amendment to H.R. 1401.

Rollcall No. 197—On agreeing to the Flake amendment to H.R. 1401.

Rollcall No. 200—On motion to recommit with instructions—H.R. 1401.

HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, on the 80th anniversary of his birth, many across our Nation will celebrate the life of a pioneer and advocate, César Chávez.

It is my honor to commemorate the man who inspired many and offered hope not only to his fellow farm workers, but to our entire Nation.

César Chávez was a migrant worker who knew firsthand the hardships faced by migrant farm workers and their families. Working the fields he saw the injustice, the poverty, and the poor health conditions that faced these families who were working to make America the breadbasket of the world.

César Chávez represented farm workers. But the issues he fought for are relevant to all Americans: Equal pay and better benefits. Improved education for all of our children. Expanded civil rights for minorities. All working Americans today owe a debt of gratitude to this outstanding individual.

His work is far from finished—we should continue to fight to see that every child receives a quality education so they can obtain a good job. American workers should have health care and safe working conditions and the opportunity to make a better life for themselves and their families.

César Chávez served as an example to all of us who live in this great country of how important it is to serve and work for the betterment of all. We should be honoring this man by commemorating his achievements with a César Chávez Day.

May his legacy continue and live on. Let us always remember César Chávez—*si se puede!*

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, on the eightieth anniversary of César Chávez' birth, it is appropriate to reflect on the impact his life and work has had on our Nation. As the founder of the United Farm Workers, Chávez was able to bring about great and positive change for many of the Nation's most vulnerable workers, notwithstanding the seemingly insurmountable obstacles confronting him. He was a remarkable man, who not only fought for the basic human rights of a too often neglected segment of our country, but he went on to inspire a whole new generation of activists who would later carry on his path-breaking work.

César Chávez understood the poverty and disenfranchisement of his fellow farm workers, having grown up working in the fields to support his own family. He fought for fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits and humane living conditions for farm laborers around the country. And this legacy carries us forward today.

During my time in the California State Senate I supported legislation to designate a State holiday in honor of this remarkable leader. California is currently one of only eight States in the Nation that officially celebrate César Chávez' accomplishments with a holiday, and it has proven an excellent opportunity to educate adults and children about his important effect on social justice and civil rights. That is why I support the effort to create a national holiday to honor César Chávez and share his achievements with the entire Nation.

César Chávez had a motto, *si se puede* (it can be done). This message continues to embody Chávez's legacy by inspiring Americans to demand social justice and civil rights. I call upon our community and our country to join me in honoring the contributions and services of a true American hero.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ON
NATIONAL SECURITY LETTERS**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, we now know that the FBI may have violated the law or government policies as many as 3,000 times in the use of National Security Letters.

This body has been deeply deficient in its oversight of how NSLs are used, and legislative changes to current law are clearly needed in light of these stunning abuses. That is why the bill I am reintroducing today is even more important now than when I and others first introduced it in December 2005.

I doubt anyone disagrees that law enforcement must be armed with the necessary tools to catch terrorists, spies and others who threaten U.S. national security, but we must do so in a manner that protects the cherished liberty and privacy expectations of all Americans.

This legislation will strengthen accountability and oversight of NSLs, which, to remind my

colleagues, are requests for personal data and records issued directly by government agencies without the approval of a judge.

We knew 16 months ago about the lack of checks and balances on both the front and back end of the NSL process—and we knew of the almost non-existent congressional oversight of their use.

Currently, Congress receives a one-page summary listing aggregate numbers of NSLs employed over the course of 6 months. These broad summaries are often delivered as much as a year late or longer. This was grossly inadequate in 2005, and is a bone-rattling embarrassment in 2007.

This bill would make the following changes to the use of NSLs. On the front-end, the bill would: Require the government to show a specific connection to a terrorist or foreign power before an NSL could be issued—a return to the pre-Patriot Act standard; require NSLs to be approved by a FISA court or designated Federal magistrate judge; and require the FISA court to set up an electronic system for filing NSL applications, so that requests are expedited and will not slow down investigations.

On the back-end, this legislation would: Provide a Sense of Congress that, in cases where an NSL recipient challenges the "gag"/non-disclosure requirement, the government's certification that harm to national security will occur shall be treated as a 'rebuttable' presumption, not as "conclusive" evidence that harm would occur; require minimization procedures to ensure destruction of information obtained through NSL requests that is no longer needed; and require detailed semi-annual reports to the Congressional Intelligence and Judiciary Committees on all NSLs issued, minimization procedures, court challenges, and how NSLs aided investigations and prosecutions.

Now, more than ever, Congress must reassert its oversight prerogatives not only to regain control of a program that the Executive Branch allowed to morph into an out-of-control beast, but to reassure the American people that their interests and most fundamental rights are being protected.

In the 109th Congress, the bill was coauthored by the present Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and all Democrats then on the Intelligence Committee. It was also endorsed by key civil liberties groups. I urge its broad support again.

HONORING LT ADAM A. DYER

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Lieutenant Adam A. Dyer of Lafayette, Louisiana. A U.S. Naval Aviator, Lieutenant Dyer's life was tragically cut short on January 26, 2007 when a Navy Knighthawk helicopter carrying him and three other crew members crashed into the Pacific Ocean while conducting a routine training mission near San Clemente Island, California.

Madam Speaker, Adam Dyer was an American patriot from day one. A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, he attended Lafayette High

School and graduated from the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts in Natchitoches, Louisiana. He went on to receive a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Louisiana State University in 2002. While attending college Adam held several jobs, and at the time of his graduation worked for the State of Louisiana as an interpreter in the Department of Tourism.

As a young Boy Scout, Adam attained the distinct honor of Eagle Scout and, following a tradition of that honor, always felt a natural calling to serve his Nation. For a Boy Scout project, Adam once wrote that his goal was to become a Navy pilot. In December 2002, his goal was accomplished when he was commissioned as a United States Naval Officer.

After being commissioned, Lt. Dyer completed primary and advanced flight training in Pensacola, Florida. During training, Lt. Dyer's instructors often challenged his knowledge, but they soon came to realize he had a gifted intellect as well as a photographic memory. This allowed him to recite correct procedures back to his instructors verbatim, including the page numbers.

On November 5, 2004 Lt. Dyer was designated a Naval Aviator. He was then assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 3 in San Diego, California for training in the MH-60S, and upon completion reassigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 21. Lt. Dyer was also instrumental in the formation of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23. In 2005, he participated in hurricane relief operations in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina, for which he was awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Lt. Dyer was deployed to the Middle East twice. During these missions, he and his team were credited with rescuing numerous people. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals.

Before his tragic and untimely death on January 26, 2007, he was in training to return to the Middle East for a third tour of duty.

Lt. Dyer realized his lifelong dream of being a Navy pilot, and in his final moments, he sacrificed his life as unselfishly as he lived it, trying to save those around him. Whatever the circumstances surrounding his all too sudden death, there is no doubt that to the point of his last breath, Lt. Dyer's efforts were focused more on saving his crew than on saving himself.

Lt. Dyer came from a military-oriented family, with his father and both grandfathers having served in the military. In addition to flying helicopters, Lt. Dyer loved golf and running. His family and friends remember him as a strong person who would never quit anything, no matter how hard things were. He always saw things through from start to finish. As a Naval Aviator, Lt. Dyer was the consummate professional. He knew his aircraft and his procedures backwards and forwards. Though certainly possessing natural talent, Lt. Dyer's best attributes were his never-ending desire to learn, the great responsibility he felt for his crew, and the fact that he was a loyal friend.

Lt. Dyer was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on March 9, 2007. He is survived by his parents, David and Stephanie Dyer, and a sister, Lindsay Dyer, of Lafayette, Louisiana.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 29, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 30

- 10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Legislative Branch Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, and the United States Capitol police.
 SD-138

APRIL 10

- 10 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).
 SR-253

APRIL 11

- 9:30 a.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine issues relative to Filipino veterans.
 SR-418

- 10 a.m.
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the availability and affordability of property

and casualty insurance in the Gulf Coast and other coastal regions.
 SD-538

- Rules and Administration
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Smithsonian Institution.
 SR-301

APRIL 17

- 10 a.m.
 Judiciary
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.
 SD-106

APRIL 25

- 2 p.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs, focusing on mental health issues.
 SR-418

APRIL 26

- 10 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine clean coal technology.
 SR-253